## A SENSE OF POWER

## The Roots of America's Global Role

John A. Thompson

CORNELL UNIVERSITY PRESS ITHACA AND LONDON

## Contents

| Preface   | ix   |
|---|--|
| Acknowledgments   | xiii   |
| Introduction: The Problem<br>Power as an Explanation<br>Security as an Explanation<br>Economic Interests as an Explanation<br>Missionary Ideology as an Explanation<br>Seeking an Answer  | <b>1</b><br>4<br>8<br>16<br>20<br>22               |
| <ol> <li>A New Sense of Power</li> <li>The Expansion of U.S. Foreign Policy</li> <li>The Limits of Expansion</li> <li>Explaining the Limitations</li> <li>The Sense of Power</li> </ol>   | 25<br>27<br>34<br>37<br>50                         |
| <ul> <li>2. Advance and Retreat, 1914-1920</li> <li>The European War and American Opinion</li> <li>Wilson's Initial Policy</li> <li>The Impact of the U-Boat</li> <li>Increasing Involvement and Commitments</li> <li>Going to War</li> <li>Fighting the War and Preparing for Peace</li> <li>The Limits of Power: The Paris Peace Conference</li> <li>The Failure to Join the League of Nations</li> </ul> | 56<br>57<br>61<br>64<br>73<br>79<br>87<br>93<br>98 |
| <b>3.</b> A Restrained Superpower, 1920-1938<br>The Character of U.S. Foreign Policy in the 1920s<br>The Apogee of Isolationism   | 110<br>111<br>132                                  |
| <ul> <li>4. Lessening Restraint, 1938-1941</li> <li>The Erosion of Neutrality</li> <li>The Impact of the Fall of France</li> <li>Explaining the Move toward Involvement</li> </ul>  | 151<br>156<br>166<br>172                           |
| <ul><li>5. Full-Scale Involvement, 1941-1945</li><li>Wielding Global Power</li><li>The Discrediting of "Isolationism"</li><li>What Kind of Internationalism?</li></ul>  | 193<br>195<br>204<br>216                           |

| 6. Assuming "the Responsibilities of Power," 1945-1952 | 229 |
|--|-----|
| The Commitment to Western Europe                       | 237 |
| Doing More with More                                   | 259 |
|  |     |
| Conclusion   | 275 |
| Notes  | 285 |
| Index  | 335 |
|  |     |