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"Stuart Croft has admirably addressed how the "objective" military threats, like other social phenomena, are the product of a reality-constructing social dialogue. He looks at the discourse after 9/11 and how the reality of the attack was interpreted and integrated into the national policies in response. This work impressively argues for a more nuanced understanding of how culture and events intertwine to create the crisis attributes and its future paths, weaving the national discourse between the preferences of political leaders and other cultural players and drivers. The volume is an essential read for those who want to understand the emergence, construction, and evolution of national security policies in the US and elsewhere. It is particularly critical for those who wish to understand how this discourse will affect future American decisions in global anti-terrorism operations and campaigns." Professor Chris C. Demchak, University of Arizona