

# Preface

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The last decade has witnessed an increasing worldwide concern for security-related issues. Terrorist and piracy attacks hitting several regions of the world have raised the interest towards security in a dramatic way at all levels of government (local, national and international). The improvement of security in transport represents one of the key topics in the agendas of counter terrorist agencies worldwide. Moreover, the policy concern with transportation security has been matched by researchers in various disciplines (among them economics, law, engineering, political science) who have analysed security systems and devices and the transport networks to propose viable alternatives to strengthen the security procedures. This book aims to discuss key issues in maritime security and provide a comparative analysis of maritime security policies and practices in several key countries.

Part I provides a general introduction on the policy, regulatory, risk and economic frameworks for maritime security.

Part II provides a series of country case studies related to several geographic regions (North America, Europe, Asia, Africa and Small Islands Developing States). In order to ensure that meaningful comparisons can be made and relevant lessons drawn accurately, a structure for the chapters related to all country studies have been provided to all contributors along the following lines:

Discussion of the structure and functioning of the maritime security system should consider its evolution, organization and relation to the national security structure. This section should include a discussion of the various domestic and external factors that have influenced its organization and functioning. Relevant domestic factors include the role of security related events in the country of reference as well as the impact of cultural, political and economic factors. Relevant external factors include external events, the role of international organizations, rules and regulations and the policies and actions of other states. The goal of this section is to identify how maritime security issues are defined, agendas established, decisions made, policy formulated and resources allocated. The strengths and weaknesses of this structure and its functioning should also be identified. The second element involves a description and analysis of the policy outputs. Here the focus is on the policies that have been adopted in regards to port security, container security etc. Contributors should discuss the content and substance and how it has evolved. Equally important is the analysis

of the effectiveness and shortcomings of the measures that have been adopted over time and the gaps that remain.

The last chapter of the book is explicitly comparative in orientation. It analytically compares the policies introduced and discussed in the previous chapters as well as the structures and constraints.

