

Maria Sticco, Publicist  
e-mail: mes5@pitt.edu  
tel: (412) 383-2493 fax: (412) 383-2466

3400 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15260  
tel: (412) 383-2456 fax: (412) 383-2466  
www.upress.pitt.edu

*For immediate release, September 3, 2006*

### **Pitt Press launches new Ridgway series on human and international security**

PITTSBURGH—The University of Pittsburgh Press, in association with the Matthew B. Ridgway Center for International Security Studies and the Ford Institute for Human Security, has launched a new book series: “The Security Continuum: Global Politics in the Modern Age.”

The premier volume is *Hitting First: Preventive Force in U.S. Security Strategy*, edited by William W. Keller and Gordon R. Mitchell.

*Hitting First* offers a critical analysis of the political dialogue leading to the use of preventive war as national policy and rationale for the invasion and occupation of Iraq. By underscoring the important distinction between preemptive and preventive war, the contributors examine how the rhetoric of policy-makers conflated these two very different concepts until the American public could no longer distinguish between a war of necessity and a war of choice.

This provocative new book outlines a framework for avoiding future policy breakdowns through public and governmental debate within a free market of ideas. *Hitting First* provides a unique and valuable perspective on the challenges of formulating and conducting national security policy while sustaining the principles and institutions of American democracy.

Thomas L. Hughes, former assistant secretary of state for intelligence and research, praised the book by saying it “breaks new ground in exposing political and semantic manipulations on the road to war in Iraq, the dumbing down of threat ‘imminence’, and success in controlling the public case for war. Iran’s new prominence as a possible target for American–Israeli first strikes makes all this particularly prescient and timely.”

Keller is Wesley W. Posvar Professor of International Security Studies at Pitt, and director of the Ridgway Center. Mitchell, associate professor of communication and director of debate at Pitt, is chair of the Ridgway Working Group on Preemptive and Preventive Military Intervention.

###