

routledge historical americans



Henry A. Kissinger

PRAGMATIC STATESMAN IN HOSTILE TIMES

Abraham R. Wagner

HENRY A. KISSINGER

Henry A. Kissinger was born Fürth, Germany in May 1923 to a family of German Jews. Fleeing Nazi persecution he came to the United States in 1938 and went on to Army service in World War II, a career as an academic at Harvard and then a series of key posts in the national security field for Presidents Nixon and Ford. As the President's National Security Advisor and later as Secretary of State he was the architect of U.S. foreign policy in some of the most critical years of the 20th Century, engineering the opening with China, helping to resolve conflict in the Middle East and embroiled in Latin American affairs. He remains of importance in American history because he helped to shape the political dynamics in today's world, with both admirers and critics alike.

This volume offers a short biographical exploration of Kissinger's life, largely in the context of the Cold War era when the nation faced challenges from two Communist superpowers as well as conflicts in the Middle East, Latin America and elsewhere for which he ultimately received the Nobel Peace Prize. Kissinger has always been a prolific author and this volume brings together some of his most important writings on foreign policy and national security affairs. *Henry A. Kissinger: Pragmatic Statesman in Hostile Times* gives the student of American history important insight into Kissinger's world and the thinking which very much has shaped the world of today.

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For the women of my life,

Edythe, Andrea, Jennifer and Melissa