Preface and acknowledgements

It has often been noted that news reporting of war tends to introduce new terminology to the language. Such terms generally originate from briefings and other government and military media-management activities attended by journalists. While watching and reading some of the extensive British news coverage given to the 2003 invasion of Iraq, one of the new phrases that we noticed was ‘pockets of resistance’. Journalists would report that significant Iraqi positions had been taken by coalition forces but that ‘pockets of resistance’ remained, often making it too dangerous to travel there. We found the implications of this term, and the fact that it had passed into news coverage largely without challenge, to be revealing: it seemed to allow the coalition to claim that targeted locations had fallen before Iraqi resistance had actually been overcome. This was but one of many aspects of the news reporting of the invasion that raised questions for us and inspired us to want to enquire in detail into how the war was reported. This book is the end result of that enquiry.

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Although the production of this book has been a collaborative effort, Piers Robinson was the primary writer, responsible for the development of the theoretical material and oversight of the project, Peter Goddard contributed analysis of UK press performance, including the case study of Ali Abbas, and provided oversight of the writing and drafting, Katy Parry contributed

analysis of visuals, while Craig Murray took the initial lead on the case study analysis of the UK anti-war movement. As part of the Leeds University-based team analysing media management, Philip M. Taylor contributed analysis of coalition media-management operations.

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