Acknowledgements

Over the past decade my research has been financially supported by the Earhart Foundation, the J.M. Kaplan fund, and the Atlas Foundation. I am indebted to them, for they have made it possible for this backwoods professor to enjoy scholarly pursuits, in addition to fish and game.

I thank my friend and colleague Pete Boettke for suggesting that I publish this particular collection of essays in his New Thinking in Political Economy series. Pete and I share the same vision of what an Austrian-inspired political economy ought to be, but we disagree on some of the details, such as the theoretical validity and normative value of self-managed enterprise. That he has supported my efforts all along speaks volumes for his kind-heartedness and intellectual generosity. I also wish to thank Alan Sturmer and Karen McCarthy at Edward Elgar Publishing for guidance in the production of this book, and Laura Kramer at Northern Michigan University for her secretarial support.

I wrote these essays over a twelve-year period, and have greatly benefited from the encouragement, comments, and support of several colleagues during that time. In particular, I wish to thank Jaroslav Vanek, who corrected a number of my illusions about workers’ self-management, while I visited as a junior fellow in his Program on Participation and Labor-managed Systems at Cornell University in 1988, and for the decade that followed. I also gained a great deal from my experience as a Fulbright Grant recipient at the Philosophical Faculty at the University of Zagreb, during the Spring and Summer of 1989, and as a participant in several colloquia at the Inter-University Centre for Postgraduate Studies in Dubrovnik, particularly the sessions on ‘Political Theory and Political Education – Anarchism: Community and Utopia’. I thank Duško Sekulić for sponsoring me during my research in the former Yugoslavia. I also thank Robert Hefner and Peter Berger, who organized the Second Annual Summer Faculty Seminar on Economy, Values, and Culture, at The Institute for the Study of Economic Culture at Boston University, 22 June–10 July 1992; my colleagues in the Economics Department at SUNY-Oswego, where I had been on the faculty from 1989–1997; and my present colleagues in the Economics Department at Northern Michigan University. My office door was often closed while I hammered away on this project, but it was still open for their warm conversation.
I appreciate the comments and criticisms provided by several people while I first circulated the essays in this book: Scott Beaulier (George Mason University), Pete Boettke (George Mason University), the late Kenneth Boulding (George Mason University), Ted Burczak (Denison University), Jeffrey Friedman (Barnard College), Steve Horwitz (St. Lawrence University), William Kern (Western Michigan University), John Kane (SUNY-Oswego), Israel M. Kirzner (New York University), the late Don Lavoie (George Mason University), Larry Moss (Babson College), Steve Pressman (Monmouth College), Mario Rizzo (New York University), Howard Swain (Northern Michigan University), Karen I. Vaughn (George Mason University), and a host of anonymous referees.

My wife Julie, and our children Sonja Joanne, Emily Rose, and Anthony David, remain the unending fountain of love and joy in my life. I thank them for their patience while I worked on this project.

Finally, I dedicate this book to the memory of Don Lavoie, ‘my’ professor.

David L. Prychitko