Acknowledgements

To Joanne Ciulla, my leader in leadership studies, whose example and trust made me persevere in writing a book worthy of her series on leadership; for the work and care she invested in this book to make it intelligible, I am indebted in affection and respect.

To Edward Elgar Publishing Inc. and most especially to Alan Sturmer, Executive Editor, for believing in a distant writer from the South; for waiting patiently for almost ten years and still being willing to publish the book; for striving for perfection.

To the Fulbright Foundation, its office in Caracas and, most specially, to Angel García, Academic Exchange Specialist, for awarding me a visiting scholarship at the Jepson School of Leadership, which allowed me the time out from my usual chores to think, discuss and refute my ideas with the Faculty of the University of Richmond.

To the authorities and scholars of the University of Richmond who welcomed me generously, supplied me with a patient ear and provided kind critical discussion to expand my knowledge on leadership and test my ideas; for being a campus that exudes conviviality in a spirit of excellence and cooperative competition; for managing to supply all my technological and bibliographic requirements within a warm and comfortable environment.

To all the scholars whose research enlightens the on-going revolt of ressentiment in Venezuela and throughout the globe; for being companions in the quest to understand human problems in order to contribute to solutions.

To the members of my family who keep an attentive eye on past and present events, sharing a common quest to understand and participate in historical events; for creating an environment of critical thinking and discussion, for being a stimulus to write.

To all those who keep on fighting for recognition and redemption, offering an example in overcoming inequality and oppression.

To all thinkers, old and new who have paved the way and from whom I have obtained answers to questions of practical philosophy.

To Nietzsche, who said it all, even if in a politically incorrect way.