

Preface

This volume is the result of the close research collaboration of scholars who share a long-lasting and deep interest and fascination with legal, political and economic developments in the post-Soviet world. Using an interdisciplinary methodology, we seek to contribute to the understanding of the complex and controversial moving target of Eurasian economic integration.

The majority of the volume's contributors are based at the University of Birmingham or have benefited from research cooperation with the Centre for Russian and East European Studies (CREES). Previous drafts of some of the chapters in this volume were presented as papers at the CREES Annual Conference, June 2012, at Cumberland Lodge, Windsor Great Park, UK. We thank the French Institute of International Relations (IFRI) for their kind permission to adapt and reprint Nargis Kassenova's chapter on Kazakhstan, originally published as part of IFRI's *Russie. Nei.Reports* (No. 4, November 2012).

We would like to express our gratitude to the publishing team at Edward Elgar for their support and efficiency in the delivery of this book. We also thank Roman Wolczuk for his thorough feedback on several of the chapters and Matthew Frear for the language editing of the contributions.

The work on this volume was facilitated by the editors' ESRC research grant Nr ES/J013358/1 'Russia and the EU in the Common Neighbourhood: Export of Governance and Legal (In) Compatibility'.

We dedicate this book to our children, Rosalyn, Yulia and Roman, who have patiently watched (and endured) it develop since its inception at a playground in Windsor Great Park in June 2012.

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March 2013