

Preface

The writing of this book at the suggestion of Servaas Storm and the prompt response of Louis-Philippe Rochon coincided with many changes in my life. I changed my country of residence three times; changed jobs three times; moved back and forth; almost lost my work due to my computer crashing; spoke Dutch, Spanish, English and French at different times; and progressed with the book.

Looking back, even though it was a short span of time, it was very profitable for me as an economist and for the material that I included in the book. Important articles and books appeared in between; the global economy changed in ways remarkably germane to the argument of this book (notably, the fall in commodity prices and the reversal of financial flows in emerging countries); and I got the chance to refine and develop the message, economic implications and policy aspects of the theoretical contributions included here. Alan Sturmer gave a first round of criticisms on the initial draft of the manuscript.

The main influence in the process has undoubtedly been Servaas Storm. With his relentless encouragement, he motivated me to finish the book even amidst several changes and developments that happened in between. He provided comments, suggestions and criticisms on several chapters, and inspired me to strengthen and remove many of the weaknesses in my ideas. Without him, this book would not have seen the light of day.

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