

Acknowledgements

We have been working on this book for quite some time. Our aim was by means of historical analysis to grapple with our contemporary world of global economies and a changing political order. We revised our ideas several times. Our work was about hitting a moving target, which not only moves but also accelerates. When we thought we had formulated a point of departure, we soon found it already belonged to the past. Especially after 2008, there is great uneasiness regarding which way the world is heading. Presentism's rule and we seem to tumble from one disaster to the next. But by paying more attention to the past we will perhaps be better in discerning the future ahead – a future which, of course, is open but still possible to make intelligible, through exploring the past and identifying from where we came. At least such an exercise can make the different options we have clearer.

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