Acknowledgments

This book is the result of different scholarly inputs that I have elaborated over the years. I started working on the topic of nationalism and borders in Europe on the eve of the Wars of Yugoslav Succession. While killing continued in the Balkans, I first discussed the topic at the Kotor Summer School in Montenegro and later, for almost two decades, during the intensive talks I had at the CEI International Summer School of Cervia (Italy). These events offered me frequent opportunities to explore research hypotheses, examine in-depth the content of stimulating essays of other colleagues, and exchange views and prospective scenarios with a wide number of international scholars. Among those, I am glad to remember here J.J. du Toit, Henry Huttenbach, Dušan Janjić, Anna Krasteva, Sir Michael Leigh, Joseph Marko, Julie Mostov, Francesco Privitera, Rudi Rizman, George Schöpflin, Susan Woodward and Mitja Žagar.

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My research, conducted in Paris, New York, Warsaw, Belgrade, St Petersburg, Kazan and Kaunas enriched my knowledge with a multi-layered understanding that I gained from the thoughts and the visions of a number of colleagues I had the opportunity to meet regularly and debate with. In particular, I am grateful for the inspiration I received from Egidijus Aleksandrevičius, Sara Barbieri, Albert Bininashvili, Jean Blondel, Ineta Dabašinskienė, Luigi Vittorio Ferraris, Marcello Garzaniti, James Gow, Zdravko Grebo, Igor Gretskiy, Damir Grubiša, Tvrtko Jakovina, Dejan
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As the partition perspective soon became a hot issue of the current political debate in Europe, not only because of the events in the Caucasus and Ukraine, but also within the EU because of the Scottish referendum, the contested demand for independence in Catalonia, and Brexit (which was at that time still a potential event), the topic also gained a new academic importance.

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