Acknowledgments

Writing a book is usually a long process that involves many factors. It always starts out with a specific idea or insight, but only in rare cases does the idea remain in its original form. Particularly, complex phenomena that have no single definite explanation – and leadership, followership, and charisma are certainly known as phenomena of this kind – tend to arouse curiosity, and generate extensive discussion, frequently provoking many arguments and disagreements.

Indeed, this book represents a developmental process, years in the making. Apart from the personal journey, the book's claims were crystallized through much in-depth reading, by countless conversations between us and those students who conducted their research under our guidance and supervision and, of course, through contact with the numerous people who talked to us or read early drafts of the manuscript, and whose comments enlightened us in many ways. The final version of the book is the result of small and large inputs, of random corridor conversations and lengthy discussions. It is difficult to enumerate all the people who have contributed. Some are not even aware of their contribution (for example, an insight born out of a random conversation which occurred in an elevator, in the space of time it takes to descend four floors ...).

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