Preface

Over his long and continuing career, Dennis C. Mueller has by any standards had a very important influence on economics in general and industrial organization and public choice literature in particular. While a full account that might do justice to the range and depth of his influence is beyond the scope of this preface (or even this volume), we have at a minimum to mention two main activities through which Dennis has contributed to the scientific community. First of all his publishing record can modestly be described as impressive: in more than 20 books and over 170 papers his contributions range from established textbooks to highly-cited and path-breaking journal articles. Secondly, Dennis has contributed to the enhancement of the economics profession by serving as a founder, president or as an active member of important scientific organizations such as EARIE, Public Choice Society and many others. Another rare competency of Dennis has been to form research groups to address a variety of economic research questions from a cross-national perspective. One element common to almost all of Dennis' contributions can be described as the ability to see patterns in seemingly diverse phenomena and formulate their relationship to fundamental economic concepts. Perhaps equally important is the clarity in his presentation, as simple as possible but no simpler.

We, the editors of this volume, had the good fortune to meet Dennis when we were first year PhD students at the University of Vienna. As always in life, also an element of good luck enabled us to work with Dennis. This has led to a series of jointly-written papers and to the setting-up of a research group in empirical industrial organization at the University of Vienna. The difficulty of this task will be clear to insiders of the Austrian research climate in the 1990s with its binding resource constraints.

Although Dennis officially retires in 2008, those who know him know also that he will never quit as a researcher. Born in 1940, Dennis, after graduating from Princeton University in 1966, worked at the Brookings Institution in Washington, DC. From 1968 to 1976, he was assistant and then associate professor at Cornell University. His first full professorship was at the University of Maryland, College Park (1977–1994); during this time he took on several visiting professorships; most importantly from 1981 to 1983 he was Director at the International Institute of Management at the Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin (WZB). Since 1994, we have been

lucky to have him as a full professor of economics at the University of Vienna.

The focus of this book is on corporate governance and mergers. Both of these topics are associated with the work of Dennis in industrial organization, where he has contributed extensively on the theory of firm behaviour, corporate governance, mergers and acquisitions, and competition policy. The contributors to this volume were drawn from those who have been co-authors or collaborators in academic life. We would like to thank all of them. Our thanks are also due to those who would have contributed but were unable to do so within the time limits. Ms Heide M. Wurm provided an invaluable contribution in putting the manuscript together, and to her we owe a special note of thanks.

By putting together this volume, we hope to be able to show at least some fraction of our gratitude to Dennis C. Mueller, an exemplary person and an economist who will certainly have a lasting influence not only on the two of us, but also on many others.

Klaus Gugler
B. Burcin Yurtoglu