Acknowledgements

A book usually has a very long gestation period, during which the writer realizes that team work is required, rather than solitary research alone, as the writer initially thought. Although the usual suspect for a book's flaws or failings is only the writer, there were some excellent things, too, that took place during a very long route that started long before the signing of any contract.

I owe particular thanks to the series editor, Dr Darrow Schecter. He gave me the opportunity to participate in such an innovative and creative process as the publication of the book series on critical theory. His generous trust towards my work multiplied my sense of responsibility. Marie-Claire Antoine (thank you so much!) and Michelle Chen were valuable supporters of the present project.

To Professor Dr William Outhwaite, I owe more than words permit me to acknowledge. Everyone who has worked with him is aware that he is one of the most progressive and erudite scholars nowadays. No matter how hard I try, everything I write seems insufficient to compensate for the privilege of being in dialogue with him.

Professor Dr Jürgen Habermas' response to my questions was an immense help, and I owe him grateful thanks. Particular thanks are due to Professor Emeritus Dr Dimitrios Andriopoulos. His advice and academic suggestions have been of great value to me throughout the years. A special note of thanks is owed to Professor Dr Gerasimos Kouzelis for encouraging me to present my research work at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens.

I am grateful towards Associate Professor Dr Gerassimos Moschonas for all the persistent (and perhaps irritating) questions he answered, and most of all for encouraging uncoerced dialogue, as all inspired scientists know how to allow to 'happen' and promote. I remain indebted to Professor Dr Stefan Müller-Doochm who offered me his generous scientific assistance in multifarious ways, and taught me many invaluable things. Professor Dr Gonda Van Steen encouraged my research in every way she could without ever frowning upon my constant outrageous requests. I am especially grateful to Professor Alexander P. D. Mourelatos for his advice and generosity. I am also grateful to

Dr David Straw and Dr Simon Mussell because their expertise supported the completion of the book and deeply appreciate the constant help and criticism of Eirini Patsi (congratulations for all your successes!), whose unwavering support and cooperation proved invaluable.

There is always the inner circle.

My mother, Christina Marinopoulou, an outstanding school teacher showed understanding and most of all encouraged my efforts immensely, when for years my permanent answer to her questions and requests was the negation: 'I have work, I have to study'.

Vicky Kontou allowed me to be her lifelong friend and confidant, showed me in many ways what inner strength and determination towards an aim mean, and supported the completion of the present book with her generosity and discretion towards my constant refusals to participate in a cherished friendship for the sake of my work. I am immeasurably grateful for her toleration of all my anxieties.

Dr Eva Klinkisch merits special thanks. Many times she outdid herself with words of encouragement along with deeds of kindness. Friendship and conversations with her on political theory and philosophy have always been very important to me.

I would also like to thank my friends, who happen to be excellent colleagues too, Senior Researcher Dr Alexander Afouxenidis, Associate Professor Dr Manos Spyridakis, Dr Leonidas Vatikiotis and Assistant Professor Dr Akis Leledakis for their guidance and friendship throughout many difficulties I faced.

The present book would not have been an enjoyable process without the previous people and their serious approach to good humour during an era of barbarous economic crisis affecting our lives in Greece. I am grateful towards them for all the profound discussions, honest confessions and, mostly, for all the things we laughed about together so often, and continue to do so.

I mentioned above that the writing of this book has been a very long process. Nevertheless, very few things in life compare to the sheer joy of reading, writing and to the adventure of exploring knowledge regardless of short- or long-term results.