

## *Editors' Note*

Though this book emerged from an academic conference, it is not a book of conference papers and critical comments. The essays here, radically revised from their original forms, have been reshuffled into sections not originally envisioned by the conference coordinators. These sections, though arranged thematically, bring together scholars working from different disciplinary and political perspectives. In addition, the commentaries, whose authors either attended the conference or participated in it, do not conform to the standard scholarly critique of academic papers as such. Rather, they seek to develop a broad context for the reader to think about the essays in each section — essays that are sometimes complimentary to the context and sometimes sharply at odds with it. For that reason, we have placed the commentaries at the beginning rather than at the end of each section.