Acknowledgements

This book summarizes a decades-long research project based on the materials collected in the *Encyclopedia of Romantic Nationalism in Europe*, hereinafter referred to as ERNiE. The aim of the ERNiE project was to document the history and lingering presence of the many cultural assertions of national identity in Europe over the last two centuries. To capture the data here analysed, so dispersed and diffuse, took much effort and expertise coming from many different specialisms; my own role, also as the author of this book, was mainly to act as a comparatist, a connector of dots. In 'connecting the dots' I was aided by a digital work environment, 'Nodegoat' (also the operating basis for the online version of ERNiE), which allowed me to do justice to the complex interrelations of the historical data in all their great quantity and multimedial diversity. Many visualizations in this book are graphic renderings of data managed in Nodegoat.

I want to express my deep, abiding thanks to my many fellow researchers: those who contributed their independent research either to ERNiE or to the book series *National Cultivation of Culture* (Leiden: Brill); and to my colleagues, research assistants and student assistants, both within the University of Amsterdam and further afield. This book draws on their input, and has benefited from the collegiality and friendship, more deeply and widely, and more gratefully, than can be captured in mere source-referencing footnotes. To list them all would amount almost to an autobiography. Like any autobiography, the following roll call must be partial: my gratitude is, quite literally, boundless.

I came to nationalism studies in mid-career, on the basis of working hypotheses developed during my work on Irish cultural self-awareness. In that transition I was stimulated by many Irish friends and supportive colleagues, such as Claire Connolly, Ann Dooley, the late Tom Dunne, Roy Foster, Luke Gibbons, Margaret Kelleher, Ian McBride, Clare O'Halloran, Harry White and (like me 'honorary Irishmen' by association) Guy Beiner and Murray Pittock. An institutional Irish support base was provided

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Another demonstration that longitudinal, wide-ranging studies need not deter even the historical humanities came from my late Amsterdam colleague, the great comparatist John Neubauer. His work on the literary history of Central and Eastern Europe was a true, direct inspiration. It broadened my horizon from the north-west of Europe in a decade when contacts were once again established across a vanished Iron Curtain; many of the collaborators that John brought together would later become valuable associates of the Romantic Nationalism project. This cohort of researchers from Europe's ex-communist countries found an invaluable hub in the Central European University in Budapest; particularly enriching were my contacts there with Balázs Trencsényi. In my exploratory work on the national movements of Central and Eastern Europe, which started with Ingrid Merchiers's fine thesis co-supervised by Raymond Detrez and myself, the intellectual expertise, support and kindness of Miroslav Hroch were precious. In the post-Hroch generation, those who broadened my horizons eastwards and south-eastwards included Miloš Režník and Dalibor Dobiaš in Prague; Sándor Hites in Budapest; Marijan Dović and Marko Juvan in Ljubljana; Pavle and Ivana Šekeruš in Novi Sad; Diana Mishkova in Sofia; and Paschalis Kitromilides and Christina Koulouri in Athens.

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these Dutch and Flemish names stand out: Matthijs Lok, Niek van Sas, Eric Storm, Jo Tollebeek, Maarten Vanginderachter and Tom Verschaffel. Alpita de Jong's fine doctoral thesis, co-supervised with Philippus Breuker, acquainted me at an early stage with the Frisian movement, a salient case close to home. Congenial spirits in the field of literature were Goffe Jensma, Frits van Oostrom and the late Pieter Steinz.

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Elsewhere in the Faculty of Humanities, there were sympathetic and collaborative colleagues in Germanic, Jewish, Romance, Scandinavian and Slavic studies, and in Dutch literary history there was the pioneering work of Marita Mathijsen and the many younger scholars inspired by her; from among them, Lotte Jensen has gone on to become an authoritative voice in the field. Jan Rock led the team of research assistants and student assistants of the 'Study Platform on Interlocking Nationalisms', set up in 2008, as the successor of the late Anne Hilde van Baal; he and Stefan Poland became indispensable editorial assistants in the ERNiE project, which was supported by a dedicated and cheerful staff of student assistants, notably Nanne van der Linden and Eva Supèr. Faculty support I received from the deans Aafke Hulk, José van Dijck and Frank van Vree. The faculty's greatest strength I found to be its administrative, library and IT support staff: thank you, Tatjana Das, the late Letje Lips, Wendy Pezarro, Nienke Rentenaar and Silvain Smit. Outstanding among them all was my go-to fixer and mate, Paul Koopman. I fondly recall the weekly lunches with my friend and colleague the late Arthur Mitzman, historian and Michelet biographer.

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