Acknowledgements

This book stems from more than twenty years of research. I started examining protectionism, industrial policies, cartels, and their connection to international tensions and welfare states in 2002. At the time, during the period of 'high neoliberalism', these topics were deeply unpopular, and even considered slightly seditious. Today they have come back to the fore in dramatic fashion.

After my PhD on European history, I made a foray into global history with my book *Governing Europe,* and by co-founding the first journal of global history, *Monde(s)*. The study of South American, African, and Asian history showed me that what I believed to be a regional phenomenon – European integration – actually had global relevance through its influence on the global economy (and increasingly on its politics), and the fact that it has no counterpart. As a result, 'provincialising Europe' does not mean that focusing on Europe is pointless, but that the continent's experience is a case study that is instructive for all, not just Europeans.

This book is therefore the product of those two decades of enquiry. It is an enriched translation of a work originally published in 2022 in French by CNRS éditions under the title *Europe contre Europe. Entre liberté, solidarité et puissance*. It has been updated (to include the Russo-Ukrainian War and recent developments in environmental and trade policy up to August 2025), expanded (to include foreign and defence policy), and largely overhauled. While the French expression '*Europe puissance*' has a specific recognised meaning, its strict English translation, 'Europe as a Power', is confusing. Preference has instead been given to the notion of *community* for this third category. The full list of references has not been reproduced in the print version of the book, but is available on the publisher's website, as well as my personal site.

The English version grew out of the lively debates sparked by presentations of *Europe contre Europe* in various academic seminars around the world. While I feel a certain degree of flight shame, I am nevertheless convinced that direct and frank discussions with colleagues over coffee or beer are irreplaceable. It would be hard for me to understand how my American, Japanese, or Chinese colleagues view Europe and the world while comfortably remaining on the banks of the Seine, gazing at the Sainte-Chapelle from my office window.

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