I find myself in a difficult position to write the Acknowledgments for this book. Shortly after I submitted the manuscript to the Press, I suffered a stroke followed by a series of other health problems, which have seriously affected during the last two years the parts of my memory covering the 1990s, when I was writing the volume in your hands. I greatly profited from many discussions with my colleagues and my graduate students at the University of Michigan, as well as Balkan scholars from the United States and Europe. But it would not be fair to mention some and ignore others. Occasionally, at least, some credits are given in footnotes. Thus, to those seemingly ignored—and you know who you are—my deepest thanks. And also my deepest thankfulness to the fates that this book was completed and submitted to the Press before my troubles struck me.

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