This book theorizes a mechanism underlying regime change waves – the deliberate efforts of diffusion entrepreneurs from countries that recently experienced regime change to spread similar regime change across state borders. Why do only certain such states and nonstate actors emerge as diffusion entrepreneurs? Why, how, and how effectively do they support regime change abroad? To answer these questions, the book studies the entrepreneurs behind the third wave of democratization, with a focus on the new Eastern European democracies – members of the European Union. The study finds that it is not the strongest democracies or the democracies in international environments favorable or hostile to democracy that become the most active diffusion entrepreneurs. Instead, it is the countries in which the organizers of the domestic democratic revolutions build strong pro-democracy solidarity movements. The book also draws parallels between the activism of such diffusion entrepreneurs abroad and their experiences with democratization and democracy assistance at home.

Tsveta Petrova received her PhD in political science from Cornell University in 2011 and then completed postdoctoral fellowships at Harvard University’s Davis Center and Columbia University’s Harriman Institute. Petrova is the recipient of research awards from the Association for Women in Slavic Studies and the Johnson Institute for Responsible Leadership at the University of Pittsburgh. She has also earned a number of fellowships and grants from organizations such as the Social Science Research Council, the American Council of Learned Societies, the National Council for Eurasian and East European Research, the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars, International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX), the National Endowment for Democracy, the Smith Richardson Foundation, and the Council for European Studies. Her work has been published in *Comparative Political Studies*, the *Journal of Democracy*, and *Review of International Affairs*.
From Solidarity to Geopolitics

Support for Democracy Among Postcommunist States

TSVETA PETROVA

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