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Michael Mandelbaum

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## **The Fate of Nations**

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*To Seweryn Bialer, Stanley Hoffmann,  
and David Riesman  
and to the memory of Harry J. Benda:  
teachers, colleagues, friends*

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# The Fate of Nations

*The Search for National Security  
in the Nineteenth  
and Twentieth Centuries*

MICHAEL MANDELBAUM

*The Council on Foreign Relations*



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## *A Note on Sources and Citations*

Each chapter of *The Fate of Nations* is an interpretive essay on a historical episode. None is, strictly speaking, a work of history itself. None draws directly on original source material – the government documents and personal papers from which historical monographs are written. Each relies on secondary works, books and articles, in this case almost all of them in English, that are based on primary materials. Over the past forty years a large and varied body of historical studies of the international history of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries has been created. This book is both a commentary on and, indirectly, a tribute to the efforts of those who have created it, for without this literature more strictly interpretive works like this one would not be possible.

The footnotes have three purposes: to expand ideas mentioned in the body of the book, to give sources of quotations and statistics, and to provide references for points that are controversial or obscure. The works cited in the footnotes in each chapter constitute many, but not all, of the secondary sources that were consulted in the writing of this book. Not all of the historical studies in English of any of the six subjects, moreover, were consulted. Chapter 1, for example, covers a century of European history. Hundreds of books have been written on the many events in this period, but only a small fraction contributed to this chapter. Like the others, it is intended to offer an interpretation rather than an authoritative reconstruction of an important episode in recent history.