This book offers a radical reinterpretation of the development of the modern world through the concept of Jacobinism. It argues that the French Revolution was not just another step in the construction of capitalist modernity, but produced an alternative (geo)political economy— that is, “Jacobinism.” Furthermore, Jacobinism provided a blueprint for other modernization projects, thereby profoundly impacting the content and tempo of global modernity in and beyond Europe. The book traces the journey of Jacobinism in the Ottoman Empire and Turkey. It contends that until the 1950s, the Ottoman/Turkish experiment with modernity was not marked by a peripheral or statist capitalism, as conventionally presumed, but by a historically specific Jacobinism. Asserting this Jacobin legacy then leads to a novel interpretation of the subsequent transition to and authoritarian consolidation of capitalism in contemporary Turkey. As such, by tracing the world historical trajectory of Jacobinism, the book establishes a new way of understanding the origins and development of global modernity.

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Revisiting Turkish Modernity

EREN DUZGUN

University of Nottingham
For Destine Celal, my mother.
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Acknowledgments

This book is the revised version of a doctoral thesis I embarked on about ten years ago at York University, Toronto. The Political Science Department at York was an intellectual heaven driven by curiosity, skepticism and progressive politics, which I most gratefully acknowledge. In a cutthroat PhD market that prioritizes research with immediate “relevance” and “impact,” York provided me with the financial and intellectual resources to ask “big” questions, explore “large processes” and make “huge comparisons” in a way perhaps only a few places would dare to encourage their students today.

At York, I am most indebted to my supervisor Hannes Lacher. Hannes was the sharpest critic as well as the most generous supporter of this project. Indeed, the very idea of this book crystallized in his graduate seminars, and I have tried to build on and reformulate some of the theoretical questions Hannes raised in his own doctoral project. Ellen Meiksins Wood, whom I was very lucky to have on my dissertation committee for a while, was a continuous source of inspiration until the final penning of this book. Ellen fell ill and passed away before the completion of my thesis, but anyone who reads this book will understand the extent of my debt to Ellen from the frequency of references to her work, and from my critical endorsement of her particular interpretation of historical materialism. Upon Ellen’s illness, I was fortunate that George Comninel accepted her place. George offered numerous invaluable insights, while saving me from making a couple of embarrassing errors about early modern European history. Kamran Matin, my external examiner, provided extensive comments that not only forced me to formulate my arguments much more clearly, but also guided the future development of my work, especially in connection to the field of International Relations. During my viva, Feyzi Baban and Greg Albo also made several important suggestions for improvement, which I have integrated into the revising of the book. More recently, Benno Teschke, Stephen Miller, Ruben Gonzales-
Acknowledgments

Vicente, Alp Yücel Kaya, Spencer Dimmock and Görkem Akgöz were all very kind to agree to read various draft chapters of the book; I benefited immensely from their comments and critiques. I am also indebted to George Lawson, the lead editor of this book series, for encouraging and supporting this project, as well as the two anonymous reviewers who provided helpful advice on the content and presentation of the argument. Thanks also go to John Haslam, Hannah Weber, Toby Ginsburg, Jane Bowbrick and Abigail Neale at Cambridge University Press and Vinithan Sedumadhavan at Straive for skillfully guiding me through the publication process.

Over the longue durée, I have received help, feedback and encouragement from many people at different stages of my academic life. Adam David Morton, Alexander Anievas, Andreas Bieler, Baran Gürsel, Can Cemgil, Ceren Ergenç, Charles Post, Claire Vergeiro, Ece Kocabıçak, Faruk Yalvaç, Galip Yalman, Gjovalin Macaj, Jeroen Duindam, Joseph Bryant, Jonathan London, Melliha Altunışık, Mustafa Türkeş, Necati Polat, Pınar Bedirhanoğlu, Ray Bush, Sabine Dreher, Sam Knafo, Sam Putinja, Sümerjan Bozkurt, Şebnem Öğuz and Zülküf Aydın deserve much thanks. On a more personal level, I am very lucky to have met some wonderful friends along the way. Special thanks are due to Aziz Güzel, Barbara Calvo, Ezgi Doğru, Erdem Akbaş, Frantz Gheller, Jessica Evans, Julian Germann, Licianny Matos, Lilian Yap, Lucy Angus, Nicole Swerhun, Rengin Ataç, Serdar Söüzibek, Thomas Chiasson-Lebel, Vedat Altun and Zeynep Kaşlı. Fulya, my partner, witnessed the final stages of the completion of this book; I thank her for the love and joy she has brought into my life. Finally, to my family: Destine, Baran, Elif, Deniz and Woolly. Thank you so much for years of support, generosity and constantly reminding me what matters most. I love you so much.