

Acknowledgments

The author would like to express his gratitude to the institutions which supported the research on which this book is based: the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Poland, the Faculty of Law and Administration of the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, and the Geisteswissenschaftliches Zentrum Geschichte und Kultur Ostmitteleuropas (GWZO) in the University of Leipzig.

An important contribution to this book was brought about by people, who shared with the author unpublished results of their research, especially Lutz Ilisch, Dorota Malarczyk, George Indruszewski, Marek Jankowiak, Joanna Wojnicz and Piotr N. Kotowicz. Furthermore, Jasper von Richthofen, Krzysztof Jaworski, Christian Zschieschang, Marek Jankowiak, Maciej Mikuła, Lech Marek, Paweł Zubrzycki, Marcin Pauk and Waldemar Bena must be acknowledged for their valuable suggestions made during discussions on various topics concerning this book and issues discussed in it, and Tomáš Klír and Christian Speer for providing the author with examples or copies of important books on the issues discussed in this work but unavailable in Poland. I owe special thanks to my wife, Katarzyna Kuras, who always found enough time and patience to speak with me about various issues concerning the present work. The direct feedback on the theses of this book, obtained by the author from anonymous reviewers and from the audience of his lecture in GWZO in Leipzig on October 18th, 2016, was also invaluable.