After the Berlin Wall

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The idea of this book came from Suma Chakrabarti, the EBRD’s President, to whom I am immensely grateful for his encouragement and support.

As I began to research the origins and development of the EBRD early last year, I realised there was a great deal more to the Bank’s history than I had imagined. That certainly made the project interesting, but also more daunting.

To make the task manageable I decided to address the EBRD’s history in two volumes. This was not only convenient administratively, but also because the Bank’s evolution itself divides neatly into two halves: an early period in which the focus was heavily on transforming the former socialist countries of central and eastern Europe into market-oriented economies, followed by a period of geographic expansion and promotion of broader needs to build sustainable markets and better-functioning economies.

The plan was to launch Volume 1 at the EBRD’s Annual Meeting in London in May 2020. However, as with so many projects and events recently, the Covid-19 crisis blocked that path. With the Annual Meeting cancelled the suggestion was made to release an electronic version of Volume 1 as soon as the publisher could make this possible. CEU Press’s forbearance and response to the difficult situation has been exemplary. I and others involved in the production of the book owe them, and especially Linda Kunos, a large debt of gratitude.

I could not have written this volume without the benefit of many valuable conversations and discussions—some brief, some long—with a wide range of distinguished and knowledgeable people and colleagues who have been involved with the EBRD, past and present. My warm thanks go to all those listed below and to many others not mentioned. The work of the Eval-
ulation Department provided very useful insights in many areas. It was also a great help to consult the EBRD archives, nowadays a combination of paper and electronic records, where Joanna Conway and Emily Burningham provided excellent assistance.

I am especially grateful to the small production team who supported this project throughout, primarily Jonathan Charles, Jane Ross, Svitlana Pyrkalo and Anthony Williams, and to several people included below who provided very helpful comments and suggestions on various chapters.

Although this is a history of an institution, the EBRD, its experience reflects the contributions of the people in its countries of operations. Without their efforts the world would be a poorer place.

Finally, this volume has benefited enormously from the experienced editorial hand of Lucy Fitzgeorge-Parker of Euromoney, who kindly and painstakingly went through the manuscript, improving the text immeasurably. What follows is nonetheless my own responsibility.

Andrew Kilpatrick
London, 7 May 2020
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