Acknowledgements

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.

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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.

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Andrew Kilpatrick
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