FOREWORD

To commemorate the Ohio Bicentennial of Statehood in 2003, The Ohio State University sponsored in partnership with other public institutions and agencies in the State a series of eight public lectures on “Ohio and the World.” This we did in the tradition of sharing knowledge with the people of the state which is a long-standing and fundamental commitment of this and any other great public university. These lectures featured distinguished scholar-teachers, both from around the nation and from within Ohio, who presented lectures in the spring of 2003. All lectures were made available to Ohio and the world on the web, and all but the first and last lectures were presented in our capital city as well as in one other major venue in the State.

The lectures are here published in revised form and constitute important contributions to the understanding of our present and our past. We are indebted to Professors Geoffrey Parker and Richard Sisson and to doctoral student William Russell Coil for organizing this outstanding series of lectures and for bringing them to published form for the benefit of Ohioans and all others interested in this part of the world.

Karen A. Holbrook

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President, The Ohio State University