

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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The book did have earlier roots: I was shocked to notice on my CV that I gave a talk titled "Wresting the Oriental Tale from a National-Realist Canon" in 1996 at the ASECS meeting in Austin, Texas, when I remember paying a visit to the Johnson (Lyndon, not Samuel) Presidential Library in the august company of Michael McKeon, with whom, incidentally, during a GEMCS conference, I visited the Dallas Book Depository, from where Lee Harvey Oswald shot John F. Kennedy. I depart considerably from Michael's model for the novel, but his work is an inspiration nonetheless.

Without a doubt, institutional support was also extremely important at crucial stages. I thank the John Carter Brown Library, where I combined

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