I am pleased to be able to express my thanks, at long last, to the many individuals and institutions that helped make this book a reality. At Indiana University I was blessed to work with scholars who communicated the delight of doing academic work. James M. Diehl showed me how to navigate the archives, and reacted to every draft that I gave him with gentle encouragement and good humor. The late William B. Cohen pushed me to trust my sources and follow through on my conclusions. These two scholars served as my intellectual role models, and I am profoundly grateful that I was able to learn from them. Ann Charmichael, Della Cook, and Albrecht Holschuh provided excellent suggestions and saved me from many errors. Other members of the faculty at Indiana—especially Carl Ipsen, Larry Friedman, and George Alter—offered advice and support at key junctures. My research was supported by grants from the College of Arts and Sciences, Graduate School, and Department of History at Indiana University.

After Indiana, I found an intellectual home in the Department of History at the State University of New York at New Paltz. My colleagues in the department and within the wider institution have been an unflagging source of support. I am particularly indebted to Katherine French, Susan Lewis, and Louis Roper, who have been instrumental in supporting my writing and research. Lee Bernstein gladly (and promptly) read everything I gave him and provided valuable critiques. Bruce Milem gave excellent advice over instant coffee and reminded me that, according to Gilles Deleuze, “complaining is an affirmation of life.” My students at New Paltz, particularly those in my World War I seminar, continue to invigorate me with their enthusiasm and curiosity. A Creative Projects Award and a pre-tenure fellowship leave from SUNY New Paltz also aided in the completion of this project.
Beyond Indiana and New York, I have also benefited from the aid and generosity of colleagues far and wide. I especially would like to thank the many people who read and commented on sections of the work in various forms, including Tim Schmitz, Kay McAdams, Patrick Ettinger, Timothy Pursell, Katherine Clark, Brian Els, John Tomasic, Marina Mogilner, Monique Scheer, Reinhard Johler, Christian Marchetti, Eleanor Hight, Gary Sampson, Glenn Penny, Andy Donson, Lynn Nyhart, Belinda Davis, and Sara Pugach. I am especially grateful to Jeff Wilson, Sue Marchand, Henricka Kuklick, and an anonymous reviewer for the University of Chicago Press, each of whom provided pointed and judicious comments on the entire manuscript. Matti Bunzl deserves special thanks for his repeated reading of the manuscript and his excellent critiques. I am deeply thankful to Andre Gingrich, who provided shrewd and lively guidance at a key juncture in the process of preparing the manuscript. In addition, I owe a particular debt of gratitude to David Brent at the University of Chicago Press for his continual support of the project. His assistant Laura Avey was also critical in seeing this book to fruition, as was my manuscript editor, Renaldo Migaldi. Mark Seidl has my sincere thanks for preparing the index. I also benefited from conversations and correspondence with Niels Lösch, Wolfgang Wippermann, Rainer Buschmann, Marion Melk-Koch, Margot Kahyless, Sierra Bruckner, Andrew Zimmerman, John David Smith, Brent Maner, and Diethelm Prowe.

Librarians and archivists also provided invaluable guidance and helped to make my time with the sources profitable. I want to thank the staff at the Indiana University Library, the Sojourner Truth Library at SUNY New Paltz, the Vassar Library, and the New York Public Library for their assistance. In Germany I benefited from the help and expertise of staff at a variety of archives, but several individuals deserve special mention. I am particularly indebted to Horst Junker at the archive of the Berliner Gesellschaft für Anthropologie, Ethnologie, und Urgeschichte; Dr. Elisabeth Tietmeyer at the Berlin Museum für Völkerkunde; and Dr. Heidelies Wittig-Sorg at the Staatarchiv in Hamburg. Staff members at the Handschriftenabteilung of the Staatsbibliothek in Berlin cheerfully filled my endless requests.


Finally, I would like to thank friends and family for their continued support. I am indebted to Jeff Fleisher, Tom Berger, Stephen Kingsley, Kazaan Viveiros, Debbie Gershenowitz, Paul Murphy, Dean Kotlowski, Adrienne Russell, Ellen Willow, David Kelly, and Catherine Lerat for their friendship and intellectual camaraderie. The friendship and support of the Schoeller family—Ina, Jochen, Christina, Bernd, and Dieter—has sustained me since my first visit to Germany as a college student. Likewise, the hospitality of Tom and Elke Seel made me feel at home in Germany when I was far from my own home. I give my deepest thanks to the members of my family for their continued encouragement: Carolyn Evans, Peter Evans, Kammi Evans, Daniel Evans, Deborah Murdock, Robert Bryan, Angus Murdoch, Alice Wakefield, Alec Murdoch, and Kris Parker. My sons Christopher and Henrik kept me grounded in the small delights of life. More than anyone else, however, my partner, spouse, and intellectual companion Lydia Murdoch deserves special gratitude. She continually inspired me with her own work and showed me, by her example, how scholarship should be done. At every stage in this project and in our crowded daily lives, I have depended on her sound counsel, humor, and love.

This book is dedicated to the memory of my father, David C. Evans, who was also a professional historian and teacher. In his wry and modest way, he introduced me the joys of intellectual work without ever seeming to do so. Even more important, he quietly provided a model for how to live in the world. For these things, I am forever grateful.