

Acknowledgments

This volume resulted from a research project on the stability of autocratic regimes that the research unit Democracy and Democratization at the Social Science Research Center Berlin (WZB) hosted in 2011–2015. We thank the German Research Foundation, which provided funding for the project. We also received financial assistance from the Fritz-Thyssen Foundation for an international authors' workshop in 2015.

We'd like to express our gratitude to the contributors for sharing their ideas and providing insightful comments. We thank our collaborators Wolfgang Merkel, Alexander Schmotz, and Dag Tanneberg, who provided invaluable feedback on earlier drafts of the material. Furthermore, during the two years that we worked on the book, we could always rely on the efforts of several research assistants: Judith Wenner, Marcus Spittler, Bettine Josties, Jan Stuckatz, and Zoé Canal-Brunet. We are particularly grateful to Simon Haux for his unflagging support for this project. We'd also like to thank Gudrun Mouna for her many encouraging words and much appreciated administrative support. We offer our gratitude to Maria Stephan, Emmanuel Gyimah-Boadi, and Anvar Rahmetov for their important input and helpful comments at the first of two authors' workshops that laid the foundation for the book. Johannes Gerschewski would like to thank his former colleagues at the WZB for their helpful input and kind encouragement. He learned a lot from long discussions with Julian Brückner, Kressen Thyen, and Saara Inkinen. Christoph Stefes would like to thank his colleagues in the Department of Political Science at the University of Colorado Denver who provided unwavering support throughout his extended sabbatical at the WZB. In particular, he is indebted to Betsy Jose for her encouragement and feedback.

