Acknowledgments

This book would not have been possible without the assistance, support, and encouragement of colleagues, family, and friends. As many of the ideas contained herein had their genesis in the formative years of graduate school, I will always be indebted to my doctoral adviser, T.J. Chevral, and the rest of the faculty members at UB Anthropology from whom I learned so much, especially Sherm Milisauskas, Ezra Zubrow, and Peter Biehl. The chapters in this book also greatly benefitted from conversations with Matthew Bowker, Tim McCorry, Jerry Erion, Ray Whitlow, Josh Kwoka, as well as the comments of four anonymous reviewers. I also greatly appreciate the hard work and patience of my editor at Berghahn, Chris Chappell.

My sincere thanks are also extended to colleagues in Central Europe, who were so generous in sharing not only their data, but also their perspectives on the past. The field and laboratory work that informed the arguments in this book would not have been possible without the help of Christoph Gutjahr, Manfred Lehner, Bernhard Hebert, Stephan Karl, Zvezdana Modrijan, Tina Milavec, Benjamin Štular, Andrej Pleterski, Ivan M. Hrovatin, Hajnalka Herold, the entire Leitinger family, and the numerous American and Austrian students who aided in my fieldwork. Financial support for my research was provided by a National Science Foundation Dissertation Improvement Grant and a Mark Diamond Research Grant from the Graduate Student Association at the University at Buffalo.

Finally, none of this would have been possible without the support, sacrifices, and love of my entire extended family, but particularly my wife Rachel and our three amazing children.