ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This book is the culmination of a research project generously funded by the Marcus and Amalia Wallenberg Foundation from 2017 to 2020. Both the project and the book originated from the idea that history does not always unfold in a linear fashion, progressing from past to present, but often moves in reverse—where the present reaches back into the past through experiences, memory, uses of history, or narratives about the past. To these popular theoretical concepts, the project aimed to (re)introduce and delve deeper into the age-old concept of historical lessons—historia magistra vitae est.

Exploring historical lessons as both theory and practice evolved through research undertaken at Lund University in the spring of 2020. Some of the book's contributors were able to join us in Lund before the COVID-19 lockdown suspended operations in Sweden and elsewhere. Unfortunately, others could only participate by sharing their thoughts in writing as part of this volume. Nevertheless, we extend our sincere thanks to all contributors for their cooperation, enthusiasm, and patience.

We are also grateful to Charlotte Merton for her meticulous language review of parts of the manuscript, and to the anonymous reviewers who provided valuable feedback and suggestions that helped to refine and develop both the texts and our ideas.

Finally, we wish to express our appreciation to the staff at Berghahn Books, particularly to our editor, Mark Stanton, and editorial assistant, Emma Wallace, for their dedicated work and support throughout the process.