Preface to the first English edition

Everything said in the preface to the first German edition remains valid and essentially does not need any addition or correction. There are several reasons for translating this book into English:

- The corresponding lecture series at LMU is now given in English in the post-graduate M.Sc. classes, to account for the growing number of foreign students and also to familiarize German students with the English technical terms.
- To make the book available to a larger readership world-wide.
- To provide a basis for the author's lecture series at the University of Maryland,
 College Park.

We have tried to correct some omissions and errors which can not be avoided in a first edition and have also updated the references where appropriate. In addition, five new chapters on Combustion (Ch. 1.4), NIR formulations (Ch. 2.5.5), the Gurney Model (Ch. 7.3), dinitroguanidine chemistry (Ch. 9.4) and nanothermites (Ch. 13.3) have been included in the English edition. The chapter on calculated combustion parameters (Ch. 4.2.3) has been extended.

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