## **Acknowledgements**

The idea of this book was born in the Makushi village of Surama in 2013, when the present Minister of Indigenous Peoples and former Vice-President of Guyana, Sydney Allicock, has recalled the legal-historical argument of Arawak Stephen Campbell of 1963 that "she [the British Queen] took it [the territory of Indigenous Peoples] without our having asked her to do so", which had opened up a completely new perspective on the European colonial history for me, made me wonder about the lawfulness of European colonial practices and set me up for an adventurous journey into the treasuries of historical archives on both sides of the Atlantic and numerous inspiring encounters with the beautiful Indigenous Peoples of northeastern South America. The present book is the result of this research process of both European colonial law and practices in northeastern South America and tells the story of both Spanish and Dutch colonial practices in interaction with the Arawak, Chiamas, Nepoio, Warouws, Acowaio, Makushi, Wapishana, "Caribs", Guayanos, Yaio, Shebaio, Sapoyos, Tivitives, Chaguanas, Pariagotos, Semicorals, Saliva, Guaicas, Panacays, Guaraunos, Parhavianes, and Magnauts of northeastern South America in the time period between Columbus' first visit in Paria in 1498 and Simón Bolívar's capture of Angostura in 1817.

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<sup>1</sup> S. Campbell, "Memorandum to the Queen of England", London, 13 October 1963, CO 1031\_4509, TNA.

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