Acknowledgements

I don't recommend trying to finish a book during a global pandemic, but I am very thankful for the support of such valued colleagues and friends while doing so. Thank you to Rabea Rittgerodt for being such a fantastic and supportive editor in such difficult circumstances, and to Chris Kempshall and Jeremiah McCall for so generously engaging with my work at every step. I truly appreciate your kindness and encouragement throughout this process. Thank you to the anonymous peer reviewers for their endorsement of this work, and for their thoughtful comments and suggestions.

It's unlikely that this book would have been finished if not for the encouragement of my wonderful fellow historians and colleagues at Cardiff University, especially when starting a new job at the same time. Thank you also to my students: designing and teaching a specialist course on historical games pushed me to reconsider aspects of the discipline of history and video games that I had taken for granted. I am grateful for their interest and engagement and appreciate them for putting up with me usually using Rockstar as my go-to example.

Thank you to my Historical Games Network co-convenors: Nick Webber, Iain Donald, and Adam Chapman. I am grateful for your friendship, support, and for Historiography Friday. Thank you also to all the colleagues who have offered me the opportunity to share versions of this work, at various stages of its development, or have generously given their time to share their perspective on it (in particular, John Wills, Emily Marlow, Bettina Bódi, and Steven Sarson).

My thanks also go to my PhD supervisor, J.E. Smyth, who supported this project (and me) in the first place. I am also very grateful for the mentorship I received through an Early Career Fellowship from the University of Warwick's Institute of Advanced Study, for the time and headspace it allowed post-PhD to think about where this project could go, and to Roberta Bivins, David Anderson, and Lydia Plath at Warwick History for their support at the beginning of my academic job search.

Finally, thank you to my partner, Ed Vollans, for his patience and care when I've needed it most, and always.