Acknowledgments

In the middle of working on this study of Jewish peoplehood, I was reminded that my connection to this topic has deep personal and family roots. A few months before finishing this manuscript, my wife, Rachel, and I celebrated ten years of marriage and watched our wedding video. The concluding words of my father's toast, which I didn't remember from the wedding day, struck me. "What they have done is made the words true: the People of Israel lives. To Noam and Rachel, that is really the most important thing that I can pass on as you come to grips in your lives together with questions and you wonder, why am I responsible?"

As the grandchild of Holocaust survivors, I grew up with clear messages of Jewish distinctiveness and the importance of preserving the Jewish people. Whether on a conscious or unconscious level, this project no doubt reflects my own attempts to grapple with the legacy passed on from my parents. I imagine they may have some different perspectives on Jewish peoplehood than the ones I outline in this book. But I hope they realize how much their stories and commitments have shaped my personal and intellectual journey to make sense of Jewish peoplehood today.

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JEWISH PEOPLEHOOD