

# Acknowledgments

The translators are indebted, first of all, to Niklas Luhmann for his help in clarifying difficult passages and for his generous permission to translate freely when necessary. Acknowledgment is due to the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst for a “Study Grant” to Stephen Holmes, supporting research in Bielefeld during the summer of 1979. Thanks should also go to the following individuals for their numerous suggestions on the translation and for their sympathetic support: Nancy Maull, Emily Grosholz, Ed Brunner and Helge Hoibraaten. Helge’s careful explanation of Luhmann’s concept of a “centerless society” was invaluable. Finally, the translators would like to thank John Moore for his good will and general encouragement and Leslie Bialler for his truly exceptional job in seeing this book through the press.

*Cambridge and New York*  
*May 1981*

