

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Jean-Pierre Filiu, my dissertation advisor and mentor at SciencesPo Paris, who ever since 2012, provided this project with his full support. I would like to equally thank Eckart Woertz and the German Institute of Global and Area Studies for the insights gathered during my associateship and fellowship within the Accountability and Participation programme. Thanks are also due to Jill Irvine and Joshua Landis at the University of Oklahoma, to Syrian scholar Sami Moubayed, and to the team of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs Archives for all their support in facilitating access to diplomatic sources. I am also thankful to Lamia Moubayed Bissat and to the team of the Basil Fuleihan Institute of Economy and Finance – Beirut, with whom I've had the opportunity to examine the economic determinants of fragility across the Middle East and North Africa region so closely. Lastly, I am most grateful to my wife, Floortje, for the unflinching support that has made this volume possible.