



Acknowledgements

I have long been amazed by the baffling and enduring vitality of Nazism. While living and travelling in various European countries I have experienced how our present is permeated by the past. Memories of the war years live on in Belarusian border towns, in Slovenian vicarages and in newspaper debates in Austria; in Brighton, Tübingen and Caen I have encountered a past that will not disappear. Even now, seventy years after the Second World War, National Socialism sets a stamp on politics, art and intellectual thinking. What significance did the Nazi experience have for postwar Europe? That is the question that this book attempts to answer.

The present book is based on my earlier work, published as *Nazismens sensmoral: Svenska erfarenheter i andra världskrigets efterdyning* (Stockholm: Atlantis, 2008), which in turn first developed within the framework of the National Graduate School of History, Department of History, Lund University. In recent years, as a Pro Futura Scientia Fellow (generously funded by Riksbankens Jubileumsfond), I have had the opportunity to substantially revise the text, to incorporate new research and to adapt the presentation for an international readership. This work has essentially been carried out during periods as a visiting scholar at the Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study (SCAS) in Uppsala, at the Centre for Contemporary History in Potsdam and at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin; the unique intellectual environment of each of these institutions has given me many new insights. For all of this I am very grateful.

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