The idea for this book flashed into my mind in-between academic conferences, throughout my long hours of waiting for flights with my colleague, Dr. Ronen A. Cohen from Ariel University. Our conversations drifted to sceneries taken from different continents where various empires rose and fell; these discussions led, eventually, to this multidisciplinary project.

As time passed, others joined me and every one of them had his unique part in the success of this joint venture. I feel obliged to express my gratitude to each and to all of them.

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