

PREFACE

A one-day workshop entitled ‘Machiavelli, Islam and the East’ was held at the Scuola Normale Superiore in Pisa, on 6 May 2013, when a group of colleagues gathered to celebrate the fifth centenary of *The Prince* by discussing overlooked features of its author’s contribution to the foundation of modern political thought. The event was organized in the framework of the FIRB-Futuro in Ricerca 2008 research project ‘Beyond the Holy War’ (2010–2014), of which Giuseppe Marcocci was the Principal Investigator, funded by the Italian Ministry of Education, Universities and Research.

We are grateful to the staff of the Scuola Normale Superiore for making the workshop possible. Its success was ensured by the active presence of a number of scholars who do not contribute to this volume, but presented or commented on papers, chaired sessions, or took part in the general discussion. They are: Silvia Berti, Giancarlo Casale, Valentina Lepri, Michele Olivari, Géraud Poumarède, Adriano Prosperi, Maria Elena Severini, Vasileios Syros, Alberto Tonini and Andrea Trentini. At the same time we also wish to express our gratitude to Muzaffar Alam, Nergiz Yılmaz Aydoğdu, Carlo Ginzburg, Kaya Şahin and Sanjay Subrahmanyam, who joined this book project at a later stage.

We owe the opportunity and honour to publish this volume with Palgrave Macmillan to the generous interest of Peter Cary and Molly Beck, Commissioning Editors for History. We could not have desired

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The reference edition used in this volume for Machiavelli's writings in English translation is *The Chief Works and Others*, edited and translated by Allan H. Gilbert, 3 vols. (Durham and London: Duke University Press, 1989). Transliteration of Ottoman Turkish, Arabic and Persian follows the Library of Congress system, except Muzaffar Alam's and Sanjay Subrahmanyam's chapter, which uses the Steingass system. Conversely, Aydoğdu's chapter opts for modern Turkish orthography. Special thanks to Elisabetta Benigni, Yasemin Köle and Kaya Şahin for their linguistic assistance.

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