Shadows over Europe

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Edited by Martin Schain, Aristide Zolberg, and Patrick Hossay

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*Martin Schain, Aristide Zolberg, and
Patrick Hossay*

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SHADOWS OVER EUROPE

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Series Editor's Foreword

Shadows over Europe is the fourth volume of the *Europe in Transition* series. Like the other books in this series, this collection focuses on a cutting-edge issue of change in modern Europe.

Although all of these chapters were written prior to the cycle of electoral successes of the extreme right in 2002, the comparative and country analyses in this collection should help us to understand the persistence, role, and impact of this trend in European politics. Perhaps the most important and consistent theme among these essays is that the extreme right has its roots in existing and emerging socioeconomic conditions in Western Europe, rather than in nostalgia for the past. Although all countries in Western Europe share these conditions to varying degrees, the extreme right has been successful in only some of them. This implies that the emergence and durability of extreme right parties in each country is directly related to the way that the political system deals with issues that are similar from country to country.

Finally, these essays make clear that, at least in some countries, these parties have become well established and are likely to endure. To the extent that this is true, they have had and continue to have an impact on the political agenda and on the outcomes of the policy process.

Martin A. Schain