Acknowledgements

In Mexico, the issue of indigenous lands has been a source of contention for centuries. During my undergraduate studies in Political Science (Facultad de Ciencias Políticas y Sociales – UNAM), the significance of the study of Indigenous Peoples became particularly evident, as the Zapatista Army of National Liberation (EZLN for its acronym in Spanish) launched their movement. My interest in the subject is the result of a combination of my professional experience and academic interest in social conflict. This book aims to contribute to ongoing discussions on theoretical frameworks within political science for the study of Indigenous Peoples.

I would like to express my gratitude to all those who have made a valuable contribution to this book in various ways. I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to the Science and Technology Council of Mexico (CONACYT) for its robust support, which enabled me to pursue my research on the land conflict in the Lacandon Rainforest as a doctoral project. I am also deeply grateful for further funding that allowed me to return to Mexico to continue my research on indigenous peoples in North America at El Colegio de Tlaxcala, A.C.

I am grateful to the Institute of International Relations (*Instytut Stosunków Międzynarodowych*) at the University of Warsaw for providing the setting to continue my research on key concepts of political theory. I would like to express my gratitude to Dr. Anita Oberda and Dr. Jakub Zajączkowski for their kind reception. Upon my arrival at the institute, I had already conceived the idea of writing this book; however, the challenges of academic life have influenced the timing of this project.

I would also like to extend my gratitude to Professor Elena-Simina Tănăsescu for kindly hosting me at the University of Bucharest. During that brief research stay in Romania, Professor Marian Zulean offered a very exciting environment to exchange ideas with students of sociology.

Upon my return to Poland, I was immensely fortunate to be able to continue my research and teaching work at the American Studies Centre (Ośrodek Studiów Amerykańskich), which is now my academic home. I am deeply grateful to Professors Grzegorz Kość and Tomasz Basiuk for their persistent and invaluable support in developing my research and teaching on topics that I consider relevant to understanding the socio-political complexities of North America.

I also would like to thank my friends in the Lacandon Rainforest: Edmundo and Artemio Hernández, Miki Álvaro, and Chankin Chambor Chenabor.