

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This book is the revised and updated version of my PhD dissertation, defended at Utrecht University on 4 June 2010. I was wisely advised at the time to publish my dissertation as it stood and to let its last chapter be the beginning of a new book. Subsequent (legal) changes, which had to be taken into account, such as the changes brought on by the Treaty of Lisbon as well as a rather unfortunate character bend towards nitpickiness did not allow me to follow on this advice. A process of revision ensued that stretched intermittently over a period of two years. Painstaking as it was however, this process allowed me the privilege of taking some distance from the original manuscript and further space for reflection. The ultimate product—the present book—is, I hope, better as a result.

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