

*Introduction*

Liminality and the Search for Boundaries  
Harald Wydra, Bjørn Thomassen, and Agnes Horvath

1

**Part I. Framing Liminality***Chapter 1*

Liminality and Experience: Structuring  
Transitory Situations and Transformative Events  
Arpad Szakolczai

11

*Chapter 2*

Thinking with Liminality:  
To the Boundaries of an Anthropological Concept  
Bjørn Thomassen

39

**Part II. Liminality and the Social***Chapter 3*

Inbetweenness and Ambivalence  
Bernhard Giesen

61

*Chapter 4*

The Genealogy of Political Alchemy:  
The Technological Invention of Identity Change  
Agnes Horvath

72

*Chapter 5*

Critical Processes and Political Fluidity: A Theoretical Appraisal  
Michel Dobry

93

*Chapter 6*

Liminality and the Frontier Myth in the  
Building of the American Empire  
Stephen Mennell

112

*Chapter 7*

On the Margins of the Public and the Private: Louis XIV at Versailles 130  
Peter Burke

**Part III. Liminality and the Political***Chapter 8*

Liminality, the Execution of Louis XVI, and  
the Rise of Terror during the French Revolution 141  
Camil Francisc Roman

*Chapter 9*

In Search of Antistructure:  
The Meaning of Tahrir Square in Egypt's Ongoing Social Drama 164  
Mark Allen Peterson

*Chapter 10*

Liminality and Democracy 183  
Harald Wydra

*Chapter 11*

Liminality and Postcommunism:  
The Twenty-First Century as the Subject of History 205  
Richard Sakwa

*Chapter 12*

The Challenge of Liminality for International Relations Theory 226  
Maria Mälksoo

Notes on Contributors 245

Index 249