TABLE OF CONTENTS

Figures and Tables ix

Acknowledgments xi

Note on Place Names xvii

Introduction: Near Abroads I

- 1. Why Does Russia Invade Its Neighbors? 17
- 2. Geopolitical Catastrophe 55
- 3. A Cause in the Caucasus 93
- 4. Territorial Integrity 126
- 5. Rescue Missions 166
- 6. Places Close to Our Hearts 198
- 7. The Novorossiya Project 237
- 8. Geopolitics Thick and Thin 274

Notes 303 Index 371