

# Contents

<i>List of figures</i>	viii
<i>List of tables</i>	ix
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	x
<i>List of abbreviations</i>	xi
<i>List of contributors</i>	xiv

<b>Introduction: Eastern Europe in the global traffic of conspiracy theories</b>	1
--	---

ANASTASIYA ASTAPOVA, ONORIU COLĂCEL, CORNELIU  
PINTILESCU, AND TAMÁS SCHEIBNER

<b>PART I</b>	
<b>Conspiracy culture under Socialism and its afterlife in Eastern Europe</b>	27

<b>1 Chernobyl conspiracy theories: from American sabotage to the biggest hoax of the century</b>	29
ANASTASIYA ASTAPOVA	
<b>2 Stalinist conspiracy theories in France and Italy: the limits of postwar Communist conspiracy culture</b>	48
PASCAL GIRARD	
<b>3 “By the order of their foreign masters”: Soviet dissidents, anti-Western conspiracy, and the deprivation of agency</b>	67
ANNA KIRZIUK	

## PART II

**"The enemy within": Jews and Freemasons** 87

- 4 The myth of a Judeo-Bolshevik conspiracy in Hungary, within and beyond the far right** 89

PÉTER CSUNDERLIK AND TAMÁS SCHEIBNER

- 5 An open secret: Freemasonry and justice in post-socialist Bulgaria** 110

TODOR HRISTOV AND IVELINA IVANOVA

- 6 From Judeo-Polonia to Act 447: how and why did the Jewish conspiracy myth become a central issue in Polish political discourse?** 125

DOMINIKA BULSKA, AGNIESZKA HASKA, MIKOŁAJ WINIEWSKI, AND MICHAŁ BILEWICZ

## PART III

**After independence: nation-building and victimhood narratives** 145

- 7 Dissolution of Yugoslavia as a conspiracy and its haunting returns: narratives of internal and external *othering*** 147

NEBOJŠA BLANUŠA

- 8 The dangerous Russian other in Ukrainian conspiratorial discourse: media representations of the Odessa tragedy** 167

OLGA BAYSHA

- 9 The victims, the guilty, and "us": notions of victimhood in Slovakian conspiracy theories** 186

ZUZANA PANCZOVÁ

## PART IV

**Eastern Europe goes global: conspiracy theories and the rise of populism** 205

- 10 Soros conspiracy theories and the rise of populism in post-socialist Hungary and Romania** 207

CORNELIU PINTILESCU AND ATTILA KUSTÁN MAGYARI

- 11 Conspiracy theories on Moldovan commercial TV** 232

ONORIU COLĂCEL

- 12 North Macedonia goes global: pro-EU aspiration and anti-EU sentiment as a basis for EU-related conspiracy theories** 250

BILJANA GJONESKA, KRISTIЈAN FIDANOVSKI, AND ANDRÉ KROUWEL

- 13 Conspiracy theory, epistemology, and Eastern Europe** 268

M R. X. DENTITH

- Index* 289