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Editors

# The Palgrave Handbook of Political Elites

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# Acknowledgments

The *Palgrave Handbook of Political Elites* is the first to survey this long-established and highly developed field of empirical research and theoretical investigation. Given the field's maturity and diversity, it was a challenging task to conceive, organize, and carry out a comprehensive inventory of scholarly accomplishments in the study of political elites.

To achieve this aim required a broad mobilization of experts in the field, so that 35 scholars finally joined as contributors. We thank them for their readiness to share their expertise, submit to the often tedious task of producing standardized texts within the format restrictions of a handbook, and meet deadlines. We offer particular thanks to the section editors who were largely responsible for recruiting, instructing, and working with contributors. Most importantly, we give special and personal thanks to Verona Christmas-Best for the unenviable task of organizing the 6 parts and 40 chapters of the handbook into a coherent whole, for overseeing the collation of materials associated with the chapters, and for being the liaison with Palgrave Macmillan when preparing and delivering the final manuscript. Without Verona's indefatigable work, the handbook would not exist.

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supported the networks for the collaborative effort, and its panels and workshops served as meeting points for face-to-face communications between handbook contributors and editors.

The *Palgrave Handbook of Political Elites* honors the memory of Professor Mattei Dogan, who created the committee in 1972 as an international and interdisciplinary platform for researchers studying political elites and who served as its leader until 2001 when age and health required him to turn the committee's leadership over to the next generation of political elite scholars.

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Jena, Germany  
Austin, Texas

Heinrich Best  
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