

"This evocative memoir takes us from boyhood in a multicultural neighborhood in Communist Timișoara and adolescence in Vienna to the tumult of "1968" at Columbia and thence to the magical margins of Harvard and finally the leafy streets of Ann Arbor, with many more transatlantic crossings and serendipitous chance encounters in between. A comparativist political sociologist unique in his attunement to cultural dynamics both high and low, Andrei Markovits lays unabashed claim to the identity of "rootless cosmopolitan." The book pays moving tribute to remarkable mentors, and captures with special sensitivity the distinctive perspectives of those extraordinary interlinked cohorts of intellectuals hailing from Central Europe who were either survivors themselves or had lost – as Markovits has – entire branches of family trees to the maws of Auschwitz. Ultimately most powerful, however, is Markovits' emphatic, infectiously joyous argument for the values of open-heartedness, empathy, curiosity, and compassion."

Dagmar Herzog, Distinguished Professor of History, Graduate Center, City University of New York

"This book offers a substantial and decisive contribution to the study of the social, political and cultural developments of the second half of the 20th century in the vein of similar biographical works such as Tony Judd's *Thinking the Twentieth Century* (2012) and George L. Mosse's *Confronting History: A Memoir* (2000). By telling the story of his life Andrei Markovits not only describes under which circumstances he achieved the role of a popular transatlantic intellectual and successful academic, but he gives us a personal yet also analytical insight into the theoretical and emotional complexity of the recent events of both Jewish and universal history after Auschwitz. Additionally, the text provides a fine comparative study of America and Europe by being a fundamentally transatlantic endeavor which sheds light on the cultural similarities and differences between both continents."

Heiko Beyer

Heisenberg Professor of Sociology, Heinrich-Heine-University Duesseldorf

"Andy Markovits reminds us of all that is best about America. As a Jewish emigre from Central Europe, he embodies its better traditions while rejecting its problematic ones. He layers his past into a rich pastry of multiple and diverse ingredients drawn from his U.S. education, his influential scholarship into European worker politics, his innovative research on and love of sports, his commitment to dog rescues, and his general enthusiasm about the world. We hear both the Grateful Dead and the great operas as the background music to this beautifully written adventure of discovery of people and ideas."

Margaret Levi

Sara Miller McCune Director

Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences (CASBS) at Stanford University

Professor of Political Science, Stanford University

Senior Fellow, Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment