Preface and Acknowledgements

This genesis of this book occurred at a dinner with Tony Marsella, the series editor, in Atlanta as the first author was returning from a conference in Germany, though in fact the idea had been perculating in both of the editors craniums for some years. The idea was to reach beyond Psychology to see what other disciplines would have to say about ethnocultural (it was later changed to the present title) conflict. This was to be done with series of chapters focused on particular conflicts in every part of the world. The gestation of the book took the better part of two years as potential authors were contacted and agreed to participate in the project. We did not rely only on psychologists but quite deliberately sought to include investigators from other disciplines. The authors came from many countries and cultures, and many brought an intercultural perspective to their writing. Some authors demurred due to political concerns, fearing repercussions would place their future careers in jeopardy. We also levied a constant format on the chapter authors which in some cases seemed anathema to the writers. But, we persevered, spurred on by Tony’s faith in the project. For that faith, we owe him a sincere appreciation, for without his prodding, this project would have languished in file drawers in many different countries. So, to Tony, a loud and heartfelt Mahalo Nui Loa (Thank you very much in Hawaiian). Though not Jewish, he has been a true mensch (a person of integrity and honor) throughout the process.

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In Hilo, there is Cheryl Jorgensen who took on the important and largely thankless task of reading every chapter and preparing the short summaries that appear in the front of the chapter. Her work is invaluable in providing the reader with a path into each of the chapters. Amy McWhinney provided much commentary on the early versions of several of the chapters and her work was included in those chapters.

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