This volume is based on the papers that were presented at the two-day conference *Ideology and Formation of the (Early) State* held during the 13th International Congress of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences in Mexico City in July 1993. We are happy, that many distinguished scholars participated in the conference and contributed to the discussions. We are grateful to our Mexican colleagues who provided us with the necessary infrastructure to facilitate the preparation and organization of the conference. Unfortunately not all the colleagues we invited had the opportunity to attend in person. Renée Hagesteijn (The Hague, the Netherlands), Natalia B. Kochakova (Moscow, Russia), Jean-Claude Muller (Montréal, Canada), Shereen Ratnagar (New Delhi, India) and Akio Tanabe (Tokyo, Japan) were among them, but they sent us papers which were discussed at the conference and included in this volume. All the papers discussed at the conference were revised, and some of them were almost completely re-written. Some valuable papers presented at the conference could not be included; notably presentations by Rien Ploeg, (Belize), Patricia O’Brien, (Manhattan, KA, USA), Elizabeth M. Brumfiel (Albion, MI USA), and Mark Kennoyer (Madison WI USA). Their views, and their contributions to the discussions are reflected in the revised papers and the final chapter of this book. In most cases their contributions will be published elsewhere.

We have been assisted in the preparation for this volume by many friends and colleagues. They have been extremely helpful with comments, or advice, or by patiently listening to our complaints. We will not include all their names, but we wish to make an exception for Mrs. Ank Amesz who guided us through the many pitfalls involved in integrating the various texts, written in different word processing programmes, into a coherent whole. Ank, other friends and colleagues, we are most grateful. That our families at home were willing to suffer our periods of absentmindedness, and long working hours remains a source of amazement. We are well aware that without the support of Jet Claessen and Nelleke Oosten our efforts to produce this book might have been in vain.

The theoretical framework of this volume combines two characteristic approaches of Dutch Anthropology. Hans Claessen was trained as an anthropologist in the comparative school in Amsterdam, while Jarich Oosten received his inspiration from the Leiden school of Structuralism. For more than twenty-five years we have collaborated in
our shared interests in kingdoms and early states. We found the discussions between these contrasting paradigmatic approaches stimulating and fruitful. Therefore we wish to dedicate this volume to two scholars who have now retired, but who have been the main representatives of these two schools for such a long time: Patrick E. de Josselin Jong and André J.F. Köbben.

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Henri J.M. Claessen
Jarich G. Oosten