This book is the seventh volume in a series on European values published by Brill Academic Publishers. The main purpose of this series is to present and distribute the main findings from the European Values Study, a large-scale cross-national and longitudinal research project on fundamental values in Western societies. The project was initiated by Jan Kerkhofs of the Catholic University of Leuven (Belgium) and Ruud de Moor of Tilburg University (Netherlands). At the end of the 1970s, they established the European Value Systems Study Group (EVSSG), a small group of mainly social and political scientists. Their aim was to empirically investigate the main fundamental value patterns of the Europeans. The group succeeded in conducting a large-scale survey in all countries of the European Community (EC) plus Spain, in 1981. The study aroused interest in many other European as well as non-European countries, where colleagues and research institutions joined the project and applied the original EVS questionnaire. In this way, comparable surveys became available also outside Western Europe. Apart from a large series of books on the findings for individual countries, several cross-national comparative studies were published by, e.g., J. Stoetzel (Les Valeurs du Temps Présent: Une Enquête Européenne, Paris: Presses Universitaires de France, 1983), S. Harding, D. Phillips & M. Fogarty (Contrasting Values in Western Europe: Unity, Diversity & Change, London: MacMillan, 1986), and, L. Halman, F. Heunks, R. de Moor & H. Zanders (Traditie, Secularisatie en Individualisering, Tilburg: Tilburg University Press, 1987).

In order to investigate changes in values, a replication study was necessary. A second wave of surveys was fielded in 1990 again in all EC countries (minus Greece), as well as in Scandinavia, some Eastern European countries and several countries outside Europe. Ronald Inglehart from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, has been very active and successful in getting the survey fielded in the early nineties in countries other than those participating in the European Values Study. This worldwide project is called the World Values Surveys (WVS) and his group managed to conduct a wave of surveys in 1995–1996 in many countries inside and outside Europe.

To monitor further changes in values and explore the dynamics in attitudes, beliefs and values in Europe a third wave of surveys has been conducted in almost all European countries in 1999/2000. A source book on this 1999/2000 EVS study has been produced and published in 2001 (L. Halman, *The European Values Study: A Third Wave*, Tilburg: EVS, WORC, Tilburg University, 2001). Cleaning, documentation and distribution of the data from the European Values Study was done in collaboration with Hermann Duelmer, Evelyn Brislinger and Wolfgang Zenk-Moeltgen, at the Zentralarchiv (Cologne). Helga van Gelder, Cor van der Meer, and Berry Feith from the Netherlands Institute for Scientific Information Services (NIWI) in Amsterdam also cleaned parts of the European Values Study. We are indebted to these people, and to several students-assistants from Tilburg University, who assisted in processing the data. We are grateful to the data archive of the European Values Study, the Zentralarchiv für Empirische Sozialforschung at the University of Cologne, and to the Work & Organization Research Centre of the Faculty of Social and Behavioral Sciences at Tilburg University for supporting the European Values Study project in numerous ways. The international data set is deposited at Zentralarchiv für Empirische Sozialforschung an der Universität zu Köln (ZA) in Cologne and can be obtained from there. For more information about the European Values Study and recent developments, see the EVS website: www.europeanvalues.nl and the website of Zentralarchiv in Cologne: www.gesis.org/za. For information on the world values surveys we can refer to their website: www.worldvaluessurvey.org.

This book is, as mentioned before, the seventh volume in this series. The first volume, published by Tilburg University Press, was *The Individualizing Society; Value Change in Europe and North America* (1993; second revised edition 1994) edited by Peter Ester, Loek Halman & Ruud de Moor. The second book *Values in Western Societies* (1995) was edited by Ruud de Moor, and the third book *Political Value Change in Western Democracies* (1996) was edited by Lock Halman & Neil
Nevitte. The fourth volume *From Cold War to Cold Peace* (1997) contained a comparison of Russian and European values. The authors were Peter Ester, Loek Halman and Vladimir Rukavishnikov. This book has also been published in Russian (in 1998). In 1999, a fifth volume was released on *Religion in Secularizing Society*, edited by Loek Halman and Ole Riis. A second printing of this book appeared in 2003 in the re-established series on European Values Study now at Brill Academic Publishers. In the sixth volume *The Cultural Diversity of European Unity*, Europe’s values were examined from an economic, political, social, and religious-moral point of view. The focus was not only on the current value patterns but also on the dynamics of value changes over time using the data from the three time points and all contributions dealt with the relationships between values and societal structural characteristics.

The current, seventh volume in this series, deals with Europe’s diversity and homogeneity at the turn of the millennium in terms of fundamental value orientations. Using data from the 1999/2000 wave of the European Values Study the contributors to this book try to identify and offer explanations and understandings of the patterns in the basic values and attitudes that have been ascertained in specific life-spheres, e.g., work and leisure time, religion, morality, society and politics, family and marriage. The result is a cultural map of Europe that captures the diversities and similarities in value profiles of the Europeans at the turn of the millennium.

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