

**THE POWER OF**  
**FREEDOM**

CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE AFTER 1945

Mart Laar

# CONTENTS

---

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| <b>AUTHOR</b>  | <b>6</b>   |
| <b>ACKNOWLEDGMENTS</b>   | <b>7</b>   |
| <b>FOREWORD</b>  | <b>8</b>   |
| <b>ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE CURTAIN</b>  | <b>13</b>  |
| The old New Europe   | 13         |
| Between two evils Central and Eastern Europe<br>during the Second World War                            | 22         |
| Back to the shadow the Communist takeover and the Red Terror   | 33         |
| Usual Communism  | 49         |
| East and West compared   | 9          |
| <b>TOWARDS FREEDOM THE FIGHT AGAINST COMMUNIST DOMINATION</b>  | <b>69</b>  |
| The fight begins the start of the Cold War   | 69         |
| The forgotten war armed resistance to Communism 1944 1956  | 73         |
| East Germany 1953  | 83         |
| The lost opportunity 1956  | 87         |
| Prague 1968  | 100        |
| Turning the tide a Polish Pope and Solidarity  | 107        |
| Winning the Cold War   | 116        |
| A new start the Singing Revolution   | 123        |
| 1989 revolutions in Central and Eastern Europe   | 128        |
| The fall of the Soviet Empire  | 142        |
| <b>THE NEW START</b>   | <b>151</b> |
| The heavy heritage of Communism  | 151        |
| Out of the Red fog political developments in Central and<br>Eastern Europe after the fall of Communism | 159        |
| Just do it economic and political reforms in transition countries during the 1990s                     | 168        |
| The Vilnius Express the former Communists return to power  | 179        |
| In from the cold the results of the reforms at the end of the millennium                               | 184        |
| First lessons  | 194        |
| <b>EUROPE S HISTORIC UNIFICATION</b>   | <b>207</b> |
| First steps back to Europe   | 207        |
| The crucial Copenhagen Council   | 208        |
| Applications for accession and different paces in Luxembourg   | 210        |
| Negotiations and the decision in favour of Big Bang enlargement  | 212        |
| The people say yes   | 213        |
| The end of a divided Europe  | 21         |
| NATO becomes the central axis of security  | 216        |
| Western allies and Russia  | 217        |
| NATO s Baltic dilemma  | 219        |
| Breakthrough and NATO enlargement  | 222        |
| <b>FREEDOM WORKS CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE<br/>DURING THE NEW MILLENNIUM</b>                          | <b>225</b> |
| Politics as usual political developments in Central<br>and Eastern Europe                              | 225        |
| Economic development in Central and<br>Eastern Europe during the new millennium                        | 233        |
| The results of 20 years of freedom   | 240        |
| Freedom still works new challenges for a new Europe  | 248        |
| <b>CONCLUSION</b>  | <b>251</b> |