

Contents

Acknowledgments — IX

Introduction — 1

Book Structure — 6

State of the Art — 9

Sources — 17

Methods — 21

Chapter 1

Conceptual Foundations and Historiographical Debates — 29

The “Soviet Myth” in the West, and the Anomaly of Italian Communism — 29

Substantial Asymmetries and their Consequences: Communism in a Democracy and in a Dictatorship — 32

The GDR: which Dictatorship? — 37

(Communist) Antifascism between History and Memory, in Italy and Germany — 40

Chapter 2

Cold War Entanglements — 59

Occupation, Influences. The Role of the USA and USSR in the “German Question” — 60

Triangulations. West Germany, Italy, and the GDR — 68

 The Late Postwar and the 1950s — 71

 Between Détente and Ostpolitik: the 1960s and 1970s — 74

Watersheds. The Establishment of Diplomatic Relations with the GDR — 80

Chapter 3

Strategies of National Bilateral Exchange — 83

Town Twinning — 85

 Organizational Networks: International, National, Local — 85

 Cities for Peace — 99

Politics. The PCI and the SED — 104

Culture — 113

 Culture’s Nest. The Centro Thomas Mann — 113

 Italian Heterodox Leftist Intellectuals and the Early GDR — 120

 Academic Exchange — 127

VI — Contents

Economy — 133

Work. The Italian and East German Labor Unions — 136

Chapter 4

“Red” Areas and Towns: Developments, Similarities, Asymmetries — 144

GDR: Towns as Cells of the Central State — 147

Italy: Municipalities as Political Organs — 155

Italy: “Red” Areas, “Red” Subcultures — 164

Governing Development: Emilia-Romagna and Tuscany — 167

**Communist Government in a Politically Inhomogeneous Territory:
Piedmont and Turin — 183**

Chapter 5

Protagonists and Practices of Socialist Twinning — 189

Actors — 190

Administrators — 190

Grassroots Activists — 211

Connecting Personalities — 222

Spaces and Fields of Convergence — 228

Trade and Local Agency — 232

Local Welfare — 253

Interpreting Communist Municipal Exchange — 292

Chapter 6

Looking at the “Other” — 303

Shadows of the War, Antifascism, Resistance — 304

Microsociability, Ceremoniality, Daily Life, Generations — 320

Symbols: Togliatti, the Wall — 336

Memory and Subjectivity — 347

Epilogue — 364

List of Archives — 374

List of Abbreviations — 376

List of Interviews — 377

Biographies of Interviewees — 378

Bibliography — 380

Index — 409