Acknowledgments

Every scholar of international relations knows that research and writing would be impossible without the help and encouragement of many people, senior lecturers, colleagues, officials and family.

In my study, above all, I have had the honour, privilege and good fortune to enjoy the supervision of Prof. Dr. Ali Karaosmanoglu, who shared with me his keen understanding and vast knowledge on the international aspects of self-determination. His guidance reminded me constantly of the importance of balance and objectivity in scientific interpretation. In addition to his friendly support and encouragement, Professor Karaosmanoglu also allowed me to use his private library and regularly furnished me with countless references that helped shape the final version of this dissertation. His constant guidance and comments on content and style are beyond any acknowledgement.

I acknowledge with much appreciation the generosity of Professors Necati Polat (International Relations Department - Middle East Technical University in Ankara), Ahmet Içduygu (Political Science Department - Bilkent University in Ankara), Hasan Unal (International Relations Department - Bilkent University in Ankara) and Scott Pegg (Indiana University in the USA) for their time and ideas to comment on the manuscript. I am ever so glad to record my heartfelt thanks to them.

Thanks also to Prof. Dr. Faik Brestovci, a respected professor at the Faculty of Law of the University of Prishtina, who encouraged me to continue my doctoral study. His encouragement enabled me to pursue this degree while continuing my service at the Albanian Foreign Ministry in Tirana. His analytical comments on the topic of self-determination helped me throughout.

I would also like to thank my colleagues from the Law Faculty where I have worked since 1987, especially those of a younger generation, such as Mr. Ilir Dugoll. I have had an opportunity to have Mr. Dugolli close to myself for the whole 2000 and 2001. His experience from the Budapest-based Central European University provided me with me

marvelous insights and analytical foundations. Mr. Dugolli spared no efforts in collecting literature for my work, both primary and secondary sources.

The advice of Mr. Esat Myftari, an old diplomat from the Albanian Foreign Ministry, Tirana, has also been a valuable guide in my work. His insights on the issue of self-determination within the Balkan context, especially related to the first years following the Second World War have been tremendously helpful.

I am sure that I would not be able to complete this work without the help, encouragement and patience of my wife Burbuqe Xhema. Throughout the years of my study abroad, she constantly supported my ideal to proceed in the scholarly life. I envy her commitment and devotion to our children Kastriot, Vatan and Denesa, who missed their father during much of these years. Denesa was born in Ankara during the war in Kosovo in 1998 and Burbuqe did not have the needed care of a husband. Our family friend, Mr. Ahmet Çolak, a Turkish of Albanian origin, has been our family's best brother and a parent during the hardest days of our life. I am ever so much appreciative of the time and efforts he devoted to myself and my family.

None of this would have been possible had it not been for my late mother's sacrifice and help throughout my life abroad. My mother Arife, killed by the Serbian ethnic aggressors on March 26, 1999, took care after my family while in Kosovo, not only during the years of studying but all over my exiled years since 1992. When she visited Ankara the last time over December 1998 - January 1999, she told me that she was looking foreword to the day of defense of my dissertation. If this work is a success, I would like to dedicate it to her.

The rest of my family living in Kosovo, my brothers Mustafe, Skender and Naim, sisters Ajshe, Zyke, Fatimre and Teuta, have certainly been with me throughout these difficult years in exile. I am grateful for their support and their encouragements made throughout.

Enver HASANI Pristina, February 2002