fulfilling process:

This thesis embodies the culmination of years of research that led me on a profound personal and intellectual journey across several countries, connecting me with many remarkable people who have profoundly shaped my path. The constraints of brevity prevent me from fully expressing my gratitude to everyone in this limited space. I invite you to peruse the unabridged acknowledgments, where I more comprehensively extend my heartfelt appreciation to the collective of advisors, mentors, colleagues, friends, and family whose guidance, support, and motivation were integral throughout this arduous yet



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It is with immeasurable gratitude and love that I dedicate this thesis to my parents.

The greatest enemy of knowledge is not ignorance, it is the illusion of knowledge.

— Daniel J. Boorstin (often misattributed to Stephen Hawking)

To know that we know what we know, and to know that we do not know what we do not know, that is true knowledge.

— Nicolaus Copernicus

Real knowledge is to know the extent of one's ignorance.

— Confucius