Who thought of Europe as a community before its economic integration in 1957? Dina Gusejnova illustrates how a supranational European mentality was forged from depleted imperial identities. In the revolutions of 1917–1920, the power of the Hohenzollern, Habsburg, and Romanov dynasties over their subjects expired. Even though Germany lost its credit as a world power twice in that century, in the global cultural memory, the old Germanic families remained associated with the idea of Europe in areas reaching from Mexico to the Baltic region and India. Gusejnova’s book sheds light on a group of German-speaking intellectuals of aristocratic origin who became pioneers of Europe’s future regeneration. In the minds of transnational elites, the continent’s future horizons retained the contours of phantom empires.

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EUROPEAN ELITES AND IDEAS OF EMPIRE, 1917–1957

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When citing this work, please include a reference to the DOI (10.1017/9781316343050)

First published 2016

Printed in the United Kingdom by TJ International Ltd. Padstow Cornwall

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication data
Gusejnova, Dina, author.
European elites and ideas of empire, 1917–1957 / Dina Gusejnova (Queen Mary, University of London).
LCCN 2016000257 | ISBN 9781107120624 (hardback)
LC record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2016000257

isbn 978-1-107-12062-4 Hardback

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