THIS BOOK is deliberately free of tables, graphs, and maps, in order to make it easier and more attractive to read. Nor is there a traditional bibliography in alphabetical order, because all the cited sources are described in the endnotes. Instead, there is a special apparatus: the Navigator. The Navigator is a website, www.volatileworld.net, especially prepared for interested readers. It contains a vast amount of statistical information connected with the material presented on these pages. You can find tables, graphs, and maps that illustrate many of the phenomena and processes that I discuss. There are also my own photographs showing various corners of our wandering world, and places discussed in this book.

Moreover, the data presented in this unique virtual annex is updated regularly, on a quarterly, semi-annual, or annual basis so that the reader can quickly find the latest information.

Of course, the Navigator is only for those who wish to explore the statistics and performance indexes in greater depth, who enjoy charts, trends, and the shapes and colors of maps and photographs. The Navigator is more than essential background and statistical information to supplement the book. Years from now, users of the Navigator will still be able to keep up to date with the themes that I discuss. Scholarly interpretation, facts, and logic will still hold true, but the statistical background keeps changing.

The Navigator also includes an extensive bibliography of the works I consulted while working on the issues examined in the book. This is not a complete scholarly bibliography—something that would be nearly unthinkable, given the broad, interdisciplinary scope. Nevertheless, it
will enable the inquisitive to delve far more profoundly into issues of
humankind and the economy, the world and development, and the past
and the future. The bibliography features many original sources along
with links to them, so that a single click often serves to open up impor-
tant source documents. This should be an aid to both researchers and
students.

Finally, the Navigator includes a blog where the unending debate
about the international community, the global economy, and the hu-
man fate can continue to unfold—including our own place in all of this
and our own outlook. In this way, the reader can stay in intellectual
contact with me and with others who find these matters fascinating.

Our Navigator is thus a splendid instrument to aid and enhance our
great, unique journey through time and space—the journey of our
“Wandering World” in its search for a better future.

With the Navigator in hand, or rather under the reader’s fingers, it
might be a little easier to find the right way.
Truth, Errors, and Lies