ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Firstly, I would like to thank my parents, Darko and Lili Vivoda, and my grandma, Ljiljana Vivoda, for their moral and financial support throughout much of my candidature. Moreover, lengthy telephone discussions with my dad and his wholehearted help with getting hold of a lot of relevant literature were very important. My mum’s encouragement and support over the phone also played an important role throughout the research and writing of this thesis.

I would like to thank my principal supervisor, Richard Leaver, for his intellectual guidance, inspiration, friendship, and support. Richard, a great expert on oil, was always there for me if I had any questions. My access to his comprehensive private library provided me with countless old and new books on oil and on bargaining. His help in providing me with casual tutoring, marking, and lecturing opportunities, which later brought all too important additional funding, is also highly appreciated.

A big thank you goes to James Manicom, Alex Stephens, and Terry O’Callaghan for proofreading my thesis, and offering me invaluable advice. Moreover, James, our countless chats over coffee were very helpful, and so were numerous articles and links that you sent me via e-mail. Thanks mate!

My thanks also go to the CEO of my father’s company, Endika Aboitiz, for financial help. This help came at a very important time, when I was facing financial hardship. I also thank my co-supervisor, John Fitzpatrick, for excellent advice regarding my theoretical framework. His thoughtful suggestions and explanations are highly appreciated.

I would also like to thank various academic and administrative staff at the School of Politics and International Studies (SPIS) at Flinders for attending my SPIS seminars and providing valuable comments; offering vital casual employment; and great administrative support. My particular thanks go to Andrew O’Neil, but also to Haydon Manning, Maryanne Kelton, Peter Burns, Julie Tonkin, Sonja Yates, and Justin De Rosa.

I thank various individuals, who sent me their work, and/or offered their invaluable advice and opinion, or have shown general interest about my work – Gerry Groot, Purnendra Jain, Simon Bromley, Steffen Hertog, Valérie Marcel, Jakob Mark, Ivor Williams, and Christer Jönsson. I also thank Leonard Seabrooke, who during my time at the ANU in Canberra advised me that Richard Leaver would be the best-suited man in Australia to supervise my Ph.D.

Finally, I thank my partner, Lydia Koh, for her support, encouragement, and tolerance throughout the research and writing of this thesis. Very often, she would encourage me to keep on working. Moreover, having to cope with stacks of books, journals, and notes all around the house was certainly not easy for her.