

Part I

Part I aims to provide the reader with the necessary background for the understanding of the case study that is presented in Part II. This background consists of the core developments in the political economy, social structure, economy, labor market, and politics from the termination of the Second World War to the late 2000s. I first discuss some general issues in the study of social stratification and social inequalities in order to provide the historical context of the ideas pertinent to social mobility inquiry. I then explore how the field of social mobility has researched individuals' movements within modern social structures and I shed light on the political and epistemological significance of mobility research. Subsequently, I contextualize the discussion on class inequalities and attendant social mobility processes focusing on postwar Greece and the major transformations it has undergone in the last six decades or so. Finally, I relate the topic, ideas, theories, and research findings in the field of social mobility with educational accomplishments in Greece and more broadly. Part I focuses on the “big picture” (“macro-level” of analysis) of the main theme of this book, namely social change and education.