“John Warner is among the few scholars to have carefully analyzed Rousseau’s understanding of human relationships, and in *Rousseau and the Problem of Human Relations* he has done so with great sensitivity and keen intelligence. Warner reveals with admirable clarity how Rousseau both inspires his readers to long for wholeness in harmonious relationships with others but also intimates the tragic impossibility of ever truly satisfying such longings.”

—JOSEPH REISERT, COLBY COLLEGE

“Rousseau combines two positions that seem to be at odds with each other: he insists that by nature humans are asocial, but he claims that—precisely because of this—politics is radically important. The issue of how humans relate to each other is central to his thought. Warner investigates different relations (pity, family, friendship, etc.) and how each contributes to political life. He has defined his issue clearly and executes his plan well. He has a fine sense of when scholars have gone astray by emphasizing one side of Rousseau’s thought at the expense of the other. He demonstrates that, for Rousseau, political and social problems are permanent and intransigent.”

—CHRISTOPHER KELLY, BOSTON COLLEGE