ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This book is the result of a long-standing dialogue between my own reading of our country and the understandings of countless fellow students of American political theory, history, and culture. In courses, conferences, and correspondence, I have been privileged to be in the company of interlocutors who have, without their knowing it, helped me to conceive and write this book.

The Progressives taught us that we owe much more to institutions—and those who found and run them—than we usually acknowledge. Those associated with Studies in American Political Development, especially the founding editors, Karen Orren and Stephen Skowronek, have provided fertile soil for studies like mine that seek to combine political history, theory, and institutions. The conference that they and Joyce Appleby organized at UCLA in May of 1990 was a condensed and face-to-face version of what Studies has done for eight years. Another conference was also noteworthy in this regard. In April 1991, under the auspices of the Conference for the Study of Political Thought and the Yale Social Thought and Ethics Program, Rogers Smith valiantly tried to bring good order to a meeting of students of American history, literature, politics, religion, and philosophy as we agonized over American identity. It was there I discovered how much I could learn from James Kloppenberg.

I owe a special debt to Telluride House at Cornell University. While serving as a visiting professor in the Government Department in 1991–92, I was one of three faculty guests at this unique student residence. Thanks to the living amenities at Telluride, I devoted the academic year to doing most of the detailed research and all of the writing of the first draft for this study. With the added inducements of students to teach, darts to play, and popcorn to eat, the setting for sustained and enjoyable work could not have been improved. To these pleasures must be added my experiences with the office staff of the Government De-
partment, whose friendly and cooperative ways made my readjustment to Cornell so easy. Lastly, the institution that merits acknowledgment most is my family. Their wonderfully mixed response to my year away—encouragement, skepticism, and acceptance—helped me maintain both my morale and my perspective.