Contents

Acknowledgements vii

Introduction: The Quest for Order 1

1 The Scandal of Ambivalence 18

The dream of legislative reason • The practice of the gardening state • Gardening ambitions and the spirit of modernity • Science, rational order, genocide • Narrating inhumanity

2 The Social Construction of Ambivalence 53

The horror of indetermination • Fighting indeterminacy • Living with indeterminacy • Shifting the burden

3 The Self-construction of Ambivalence 75

Exclusion into objectivity • Excursus: Franz Kafka, or the rootlessness of universality • The intellectuals' neolithic revolution • The universality of rootlessness • The threat and the chance

4 A Case Study in the Sociology of Assimilation I: Trapped in Ambivalence 102

The case of the German Jews • The modernizing logic of Jewish assimilation • The dimensions of loneliness • Imagining the real Germany • Shame and embarrassment • The inner demons of assimilation • Unsettled accounts • The project of assimilation and strategies of response • Assimilation's ultimate frontiers • The antinomies of assimilation and the birth of modern culture

5 A Case Study in the Sociology of Assimilation II: The Revenge of Ambivalence 160

The counter-attack of ambivalence • Freud, or ambivalence as power • Kafka, or the difficulty of naming • Simmel, or the other end of modernity • The other side of assimilation

6 The Privatization of Ambivalence 197

The quest for love, or the existential foundations of expertise • The redeployment of skills • The self-reproduction of expertise • Marketing expertise • Hiding from ambivalence • The tendencies and limits of the expert-designed world

7 Postmodernity, or Living with Ambivalence 231

From tolerance to solidarity • *The Exorcist* and *The Omen*, or modern and postmodern limits to knowledge • Neotribalism, or the search for shelter • The antinomies of postmodernity • The futures of solidarity • Socialism: modernity's last stand • Has social engineering a future? • The postmodern political agenda

Index 280