Contents

Introduction: Human Rights across Borders	1
Global Transformations: A Postnational Constellation?	6
Outlines of an Arendtian Critique of Human Rights	12
Rightlessness: Precarious Legal, Political, and Human Standing	17
A Right to Have Rights	21
Perplexities of Human Rights	25
Aporetic Thinking and the Socratic Example	29
Perplexities of the Rights of Man	37
Equivocality and Contingency of Human Rights	47

2	Human Rights as Politics and Anti-Politics	55
	Unpacking and Unsettling "the Social"	60
	The French Revolution and the Moral Economy of Compassion	67
	Humanitarianism and the Risks of an Anti-Political Approach	75
	The Labor Movement and the Politics of Human Rights	81
3	Borders of Personhood	90
	Statelessness and the Condition of Rightlessness	94
	Persona, or the Artificial Mask of Law	98
	Rightlessness and Deportation	107
	Rightlessness and Immigration Detention	116

viii CONTENTS

4	Expulsion from Politics and Humanity	126
	A Critical Phenomenology of the Human Condition	129
	Between Life and Death: Rightlessness and Labor	139
	Loss of a Durable World: Rightlessness and Work	145
	Vanishing Freedom and Equality: Rightlessness and Action	152
5	Declarations of a Right to Have Rights	164
	Perplexities of a Right to Have Rights	168
	Revolutionary Beginnings: Human Rights	
	and Political Founding	173
	A Right to Have Rights and the Principle of Equaliberty	181
	Political Practices of Founding Human Rights	187

Conclusion: The Struggle Remains Undecided	203
Notes	213
Bibliography	259
Index	285