## CONTENTS

Introduction: Hard-Hearted Liberalism 1
The Intellectual Options Today 2
Liberals, Civil Libertarians, and Liberalism 9
The Free Speech Story 14
Self-Abstraction and Stoicism 22
The Method of Perversity 25

Chapter 1. Saint Paul's Shudder 29
The Puzzle of Paul 29
The Case of Meat at Corinth 36
The Privilege of the Other 45
In Praise of Impersonality 50
Hosting Dangerous Discourse 56
Stoic, Rhetorician, Jew 64

Chapter 2. "Evil Be Thou My Good": Milton and Abyss-Redemption 68
Areopagitica, a Misplaced Classic 68
Provoking Objects 74
Scouting into the Regions of Sin 78
Dramatis Personae 83
The Morality of Transgression 97

Chapter 3. Publicity and Pain 100

The Public Realm as Sublimation 103

Locke's Project of Self-Discipline 110

Adam Smith and the Fortunate Impossibility of Sympathy 114

Mill and the Historical Recession of Pain 123

Stoic Ear, Romantic Voice 130

Publicity and Pain 136

Chapter 4. Homeopathic Machismo in Free Speech Theory 142
The Traumatophilic First Amendment 142
Holmes and Hardness 146
Brandeis and Noxious Doctrine 152
Skokie Subjectivity 155
Hardball Public Space and the Suspended Soul 166
Impersonality, or Openness to Strangeness 175

## viii CONTENTS

Chapter 5. Social Science as Public Communication 181
Positivism as Civic Discipline 182
The Arts of Chaste Discourse 187
Democracy and Numbers 191
Objectivity and Self-Mortification 196
Medical Composure 203
Ways to Rehearse Death 208

Chapter 6. "Watch, Therefore": Suffering and the Informed Citizen

Catharsis 217

Compassion 222

Courage 228

Pity and Its Critics 232

News and the Everlasting Now 240

Chapter 7. "Meekness as a Dangerous Activity": Witnessing as Participation 247
Witnessing with the Body 249
Witnessing from Captivity 257
Persons as Objects 260
Martin Luther King's Principled Passivity 265
Transcendental Buffoonery 272
Democracy and Imperfection 279

Conclusion: Responsibility to Things That Are Not 284
The Sustainability of Free Expression 284
The Wages of Stoicism 289

Afterword 295 Acknowledgments 297 Index 299