ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

AM GRATEFUL to the many friends and colleagues from whose advice and encouragement I have benefited in the preparation of this book. Paul Bénichou's deep knowledge of French intellectual history always showed the way. Conor Cruise O'Brien energized me with his enthusiasm for this subject. Carol Blum's pioneering work on Rousseau as well as Maurice Weyembergh's informative remarks about Camus and Sartre opened new lines of inquiry. At Williams College, I pitilessly mobilized my colleagues: Francis Oakley generously shared his historical insights with me; Gary Jacobsohn and Jeff Weintraub were on permanent call concerning all matters pertaining to law and political theory, respectively. George Pistorius, James Wood, MacAlister Brown, Mark Taylor, Robert Jackall, Clara Park, and David Park were all important intellectual presences. At Columbia University, I also profited from the stimulating intellectual atmosphere created by the members of the University Seminar on Eighteenth-Century European Culture.

Special thanks are due to Robert F. Dalzell Jr. for his unfailing friend-ship and perceptive advice about several chapters. I wish to express my deep gratitude to James MacGregor Burns for his careful readings of my manuscript and sensitive suggestions, and for his warm support and the excitement of our political conversations. I am very indebted to Lionel Gossman for his interest in my manuscript and for his wise and penetrating comments.

My work was supported by a senior fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities, by a grant from the American Philosophical Society, and by generous assistance from Williams College. Some parts of this book appeared in quite different form in *Partisan Review* 57 (Winter 1990); *History and Theory* 28 (1989); *The Romanic Review* 80 (May 1989); and *L'Esprit créateur* 27 (1987).

My friends in the Faculty Secretarial Office of Williams College—Shirley Bushika, Donna Chenail, Lori Tolle, and Peggy Bryant—as well as Lois Cooper and my copy editor Richard Jones skillfully and tirelessly assisted me in various ways in the preparation of this manuscript.

Finally I thank my father for the invaluable gift of his constancy and good cheer and for much more.

