

THE AGE OF CHOICE

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**A HISTORY OF FREEDOM
IN MODERN LIFE**

SOPHIA ROSENFELD

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY PRESS

PRINCETON & OXFORD

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Published by Princeton University Press
41 William Street, Princeton, New Jersey 08540
99 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 6JX

press.princeton.edu

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Rosenfeld, Sophia A., author.

Title: The age of choice : a history of freedom in modern life / Sophia Rosenfeld.

Description: Princeton : Princeton University Press, 2025. | Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2024015381 (print) | LCCN 2024015382 (ebook) | ISBN 9780691164717 (hardback) | ISBN 9780691261621 (ebook)

Subjects: LCSH: Liberty—History. | Choice (Psychology)

Classification: LCC HM1266 .R67 2025 (print) | LCC HM1266 (ebook) | DDC 153.8/3—dc23/eng/20240701

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2024015381>

LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2024015382>

British Library Cataloging-in-Publication Data is available

Editorial: Rob Tempio, Chloe Coy

Production Editorial: Elizabeth Byrd

Production: Erin Suydam

Publicity: James Schneider (US), Carmen Jimenez (UK)

Jacket Credit: Elliott Erwit / Magnum Photos

This book has been composed in Arno with Oscine

Printed in the United States of America

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

For Matthew, always

One of the indispensable foods of the human soul is liberty. Liberty, taking the word in its concrete sense, consists in the ability to choose.

—SIMONE WEIL, *THE NEED FOR ROOTS* (WRITTEN 1943,
PUBLISHED POSTHUMOUSLY IN 1949)

Wer die Wahl hat, hat die Qual (He who has choice has torment).

—GERMAN PROVERB

And he thought, The women have more courage than we do. Then he thought, Maybe they don't have any choice.

—JAMES BALDWIN, *ANOTHER COUNTRY* (1962)