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My final thanks are prospective: I want to thank in advance the readers who will come to this book and take the arguments offered here seriously. I offer the book both to scholars of democratic theory and life as well as to ordinary citizens who are looking for a way to make sense of our political possibilities at the present. These have been hard times for those of us who believe in democracy. I have sustained my hope that we can yet change the subject of political life to what really matters, that is, to what we do, and should, really care about.

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