

# Contents

## Prologue: The Changeable Philosophy of the Immutable, 3

### 1. Self-evident Truth and Democracy, 9

The Courage To Use One's Own Reason

Innate Principles and Dictators

Aquinas on Self-evidence: The Learned and the Ignorant

How Democratic Was Locke's Appeal to Self-evidence?

Burlamaqui, the "Stupid Wretches," and Self-evidence

Self-evidence and Utilitarianism

Locke, the Laboring Classes, and Divine Sanctions

### 2. Self-evident Truth and the Founding Fathers, 61

Self-evidence and Equality in Locke

Jefferson, Self-evidence, and Equality

Hamilton and Self-evidence

A Concluding Word

### 3. Reason, Moral Sense, and the People, 97

Hutcheson's Early Doctrine of Moral Sense

Burlamaqui on Reason and the Moral Sense

Jefferson, Moral Sense, and Reason  
The People and the Moral Sense  
James Wilson and the Undepraved Moral Sense  
Jefferson, the People, and the Epistemology of Morals

**4. The Laws of Nature and of Nature's God, 142**

Natural Law and Natural Right  
Two Kinds of Natural Laws  
God's Will and Natural Law  
Natural Law and the Essence of Man

**5. The Nature of Rights, 185**

Rights, Powers, and John Adams  
Is the Right To Believe Unalienable?  
Which Rights Involving Life Are Unalienable?  
Property as an Adventitious Right  
The Status of the Right to Property: More Significant Ambiguity

**6. "Rebellion to Tyrants Is Obedience to God," 229**

The Revolutionaries Were Not Utilitarians  
From the Unalienable Rights of Men to the People's Right To Rebel  
The Rights of Men, the Ends of Men, and the Ends of Government

**Epilogue: Man's Glassy Essence:**

**The Murky Mirror of Morality, 257**

**Supplementary Notes, 273**

**Index, 293**