

Contents

Acknowledgments ix

Note on Texts and Translations x

Chronology xi

Introduction *The Great Democrat of the Eighteenth Century?* 1

1 *The Rhetoric of Reverie* 5

Images and Ideas 6 Reverie 7 The Limits of Reason—"At a Glance" 9
The Value of Images 10 The Virtue of Reverie 11 The Oracle of Geneva 12

(1712–1754) *The City and the Citizen of Geneva* 14

A Democracy? 14 An Artisan's Education 18 Either/Or 19
"Citizen of Geneva" 22 Dedication 24

2 *The Image of Democracy* 26

The Natural Setting 26 The Household 28 Religion 32 Public Occasions 33
Mores and Manners 36 The Laws 37 The Government 39
A New Image of Democracy 41 Men and Citizens 43

(1754–1762) *The Exile as Citizen* 49

Homecoming 49 Exile 52 Doubts 54

3 *The Social Contract* 59

Observing the Defects 59 The Principles of Political Right 61
The Rhetoric of Reasoning 66 Hidden Intentions 67
Realizing the Principles of Right 69 Completing the Contract 73

(1762–1764) *The Citizen Exiled* 76

The Trial Begins 77 The Charge: "Such Extreme Freedom" 78

The Verdict 81	Renunciation 84
4 <i>The Past Recaptured</i> 87	
A Book for Geneva 87	A Saga of Decay 89
History as a Fable 92	Reconstituting the Lost City 96
The Golden Age in Geneva 98	Beyond Utopia: A Myth for Moderns 102
5 <i>The Idea of Democracy</i> 105	
A Form of Government 105	A Form of Sovereignty 107
The Two Forms Compared 109	In the Tradition 110
In the Enlightenment 114	Inverting the Cycle of Governments 116
Redefining Sovereignty 118	The Hidden Masterpiece 121
(1764–1778) <i>The Reluctant Visionary</i> 123	
Rage 123	Retreat 126
The Armchair Federalist 127	Ambivalence 129
An Open Question 130	
6 <i>The Oracle and the Revolution</i> 132	
Rousseau and the French Audience for Enlightenment 134	The Prerevolutionary Cult 136
The Cult Politicized 138	From Geneva to Paris 140
The Revolutionary Cult 142	Montage and Misreadings 144
Robespierre, Rousseau, and the Sans-Culottes 147	Robespierre's Plans for Popular Sovereignty 152
The Constitution of 1793 153	Virtue and Terror: Robespierre Redefines Democracy 156
Rousseau and the Rise of Modern Democracy 158	The Oracle of Paris 162
Disinterment and Last Rites 163	
7 <i>The Forms of Freedom</i> 165	
Free Will 167	The Goodness of the Will 170
Natural Freedom: The Lost Paradigm 173	Moral Freedom: The Need for Virtue 178
Civil Freedom: The Need for Laws 181	The Coherence of Rousseau's Idea 185
Contradictions 187	Hesitation 192
The Self-Defeating Dream 194	Freedom and Democracy 198
Epilogue <i>Democracy After Rousseau</i> 202	
Abbreviations 211	
Notes 213	
Index 263	