

---

# Contents

---

How to Read This Book vii

Acknowledgments viii

Introduction: The Production of Idiocy 1

1. The Logic of Behavior 16

2. Extasis: The Context of Behavior 43

3. The Logic of Abstraction 64

4. The Desperate Debtor and the  
Tradition of Authenticity 85

5. Self-Possession and the Estrangement of Power:  
The American Example 118

6. The Political Psychology of Permission 143

Afterword 157

Reference Titles Used in Source Notes 158

Bibliography 161

Index 167