

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgments xi

1. The Gist of It 3

THE CENTRAL ELEMENTS OF THE THEORY 8

OTHER PERSPECTIVES 23

CONCLUSION 31

2. Microfoundations 34

MEANING AND MEMBERSHIP: ON THE ORIGIN OF THE EXISTENTIAL
FUNCTION OF THE SOCIAL 35

THE COLLECTIVE AS EXISTENTIAL REFUGE 40

SOCIAL SKILL 45

SOCIAL SKILL IN ACTION 50

CONCLUSION 53

3. Macroconsiderations 57

THE "EMBEDDEDNESS" OF STRATEGIC ACTION FIELDS 59

AN EXCURSUS ON FORMAL ORGANIZATION AND BUREAUCRACY 64

THE STATE AS A SYSTEM OF STRATEGIC ACTION FIELDS 67

THE IMPACT OF STATE FIELDS ON NONSTATE STRATEGIC
ACTION FIELDS 71

THE DEPENDENCE OF STATES AND STATE FIELDS ON
NONSTATE FIELDS 74

INTERNAL GOVERNANCE UNITS 77

HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE PROFESSIONS 79

CONCLUSION 80

| | |
|--|-----|
| 4. Change and Stability in Strategic Action Fields | 83 |
| CURRENT DEBATES | 83 |
| THE EMERGENCE OF STRATEGIC ACTION FIELDS | 86 |
| SUSTAINING A SETTLEMENT: THE REPRODUCTION OF FIELDS | 96 |
| SETTLEMENTS AND RUPTURES: STABILITY AND CRISIS IN STRATEGIC ACTION FIELDS | 99 |
| REESTABLISHING FIELD STABILITY | 104 |
| THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SOCIAL SKILL AND THE STATE OF THE STRATEGIC ACTION FIELD | 108 |
| CONCLUSION | 112 |
| 5. Illustrating the Perspective: Contention over Race in the United States, 1932–1980 and the Rise and Fall of the Mortgage Securitization Industry, 1969–2011 | 114 |
| THE CIVIL RIGHTS STRUGGLE, 1932–1980 | 115 |
| SETTING THE STAGE: CONTENTION OVER RACE IN THE UNITED STATES, 1781–1877 | 116 |
| THE FIELD OF RACIAL POLITICS, 1877–1932 | 117 |
| DESTABILIZING CHANGES: THE DEPRESSION AND THE COLD WAR | 121 |
| THE EPISODE OF CONTENTION AND THE RISE OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT | 127 |
| A NEW SETTLEMENT | 129 |
| THE DECLINING SALIENCE OF THE COLD WAR DYNAMIC | 130 |
| THE REVENGE OF THE DIXIECRATS AND THE END OF THE NEW DEAL ELECTORAL REGIME | 130 |
| THE RISE OF BLACK POWER AND THE RUPTURE IN THE MOVEMENT STRATEGIC ACTION FIELDS | 132 |
| THE INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT AND ITS IMPACT ON OTHER STRATEGIC ACTION FIELDS | 134 |
| SUMMING UP: AN IMPORTANT POSTSCRIPT | 136 |
| THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE U.S. MORTGAGE MARKET, 1969–2011 | 140 |
| THE DOMINANT STRATEGIC ACTION FIELDS OF THE MORTGAGE MARKET, 1934–1987 | 142 |
| CHANGES THAT DESTABILIZED THE MORTGAGE MARKET, 1969–1987 | 145 |
| SETTLEMENT AND THE NEW STRATEGIC ACTION FIELD | 149 |
| THE RISE OF THE INDUSTRIAL MODEL OF THE MBS MARKET, 1993–2007 | 151 |
| THE CAUSES OF THE CRISIS | 157 |
| THE IMPACT OF THE STRATEGIC ACTION FIELD BASED ON THE INDUSTRIAL MODEL ON OTHER STRATEGIC ACTION FIELDS | 159 |
| CONCLUSION | 161 |

| | |
|--|-----|
| 6. Methodological Considerations | 164 |
| THE ROADMAP | 165 |
| HOW TO TELL IF A STRATEGIC ACTION FIELD EXISTS | 167 |
| EMERGENCE, STABILITY, AND CRISIS, PART 1 | 170 |
| THE PROBLEM OF THE STATE IN RELATION TO STRATEGIC ACTION FIELDS | 173 |
| EMERGENCE, STABILITY, AND CRISIS, PART 2 | 174 |
| SOCIAL SKILL, STRATEGIC ACTION, AND THE QUESTION OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP | 178 |
| CONSIDERING DIFFERENT PHILOSOPHIES OF SCIENCE AND METHODOLOGICAL STRATEGIES | 183 |
| A POSITIVIST APPROACH TO STRATEGIC ACTION FIELDS | 188 |
| REALIST APPROACHES TO THE STUDY OF STRATEGIC ACTION FIELDS | 192 |
| THE PROBLEM OF EMPIRICISM | 196 |
| CONCLUSION | 198 |
| 7. Toward a Theory of Strategic Action Fields | 200 |
| SO WHAT IS NEW HERE? | 200 |
| THE PROBLEM OF THE ACCUMULATION OF KNOWLEDGE IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES | 208 |
| THE SURPRISING DISCOVERY OF FIELDS | 209 |
| TOWARD A COLLABORATIVE PROGRAM OF THEORY AND RESEARCH ON FIELDS | 215 |
| <i>Bibliography</i> | 223 |
| <i>Index</i> | 233 |