# CONTENTS

Preface ix

1 Introduction: Of Ruling Classes and Underclasses: The Laws of Social Mobility 1

**PART I Social Mobility by Time and Place**

2 Sweden: Mobility Achieved? 19

3 The United States: Land of Opportunity 45

4 Medieval England: Mobility in the Feudal Age 70

5 Modern England: The Deep Roots of the Present 88

6 A Law of Social Mobility 107

7 Nature versus Nurture 126

**PART II Testing the Laws of Mobility**

8 India: Caste, Endogamy, and Mobility 143

9 China and Taiwan: Mobility after Mao 167

10 Japan and Korea: Social Homogeneity and Mobility 182

11 Chile: Mobility among the Oligarchs 199

12 The Law of Social Mobility and Family Dynamics 212

13 Protestants, Jews, Gypsies, Muslims, and Copts: Exceptions to the Law of Mobility? 228

14 Mobility Anomalies 253
PART III  The Good Society

15  Is Mobility Too Low? Mobility versus Inequality  261
16  Escaping Downward Social Mobility  279

Appendix 1: Measuring Social Mobility  287
Appendix 2: Deriving Mobility Rates from Surname Frequencies  296
Appendix 3: Discovering the Status of Your Surname Lineage  301

Data Sources for Figures and Tables  319
References  333
Index  349