## Contents

Preface	xi
Acknowledgments	xiii
Chapter 1	
Ordinary Knowledge	1
An Economic Theory of Knowledge	4
The Social Generation of Knowledge	10
Knowledge from Authority	11
The Division of Labor and Individual Knowledge	14
The Internalization of Norms	15
Standard Philosophical Theories of Knowledge	19
Concluding Remarks	25
Chapter 2	
Popular Knowledge of Science	28
Medical Knowledge	35
Estrangement from Science	41
The Science Wars	44
Religion versus Science	45
A New Science?	49
Concluding Remarks	58
Chapter 3	
Democratic Participation	60
The Logic of Collective Action	62
The Economic Theory of Democracy	63
Voting and Ordinary Knowledge	65
Knowledge of How to Vote	66
Median Knowledge	69
Understanding Whether to Vote	70
Multidimensional Issues	78
Concluding Remarks	80
Chapter 4	
Liberalism	83
Austrian Social Theory	84
Legibility and Democracy	87
Seeing like Hayek	89

## viii · Contents

Distributed Knowledge and Policy	91
Civil Liberties	93
Liberty and Welfare	96
Concluding Remarks	99
Chapter 5	
Moral Knowledge	101
Individual Moral Knowledge	103
Testing Moral Theories against Common Sense	105
The Strategy of Knowing	111
The Economics of Moral Motivation	113
Social Evolution of Collective Moral Knowledge	114
Authority and Moral Knowledge	118
Concluding Remarks	119
Chapter 6	
Institutional Knowledge	121
Strategic Interaction and Institutions	123
Institutions and Moral Knowledge	124
Institutions as Meliorative	126
Apparent Mutual Advantage	130
Interpersonal Comparisons of Welfare	131
Concluding Remarks	133
Chapter 7	
Religious Belief and Practice	135
Religious Knowledge by Authority	138
Incentive to Believe, or Count as True	142
Adaptive Knowledge Revision	143
Communal Sources of Belief	147
Communal Enforcement of Belief	148
Sincerity of Belief and Knowledge	150
Fundamentalist, Infallible Belief	153
Concluding Remarks	159
Chapter 8	
Culture	161
Group-Specific Implications of Individual Knowledge	162
Knowledge and Culture	166
A Functional Account of Culture	175
The Goodness of a Culture	176
Collective Identity	179
Concluding Remarks	181

Chapter 9	
Extremism	185
Knowledge by Authority, Again	186
Normal Politics	187
The Belief System of Extremism	188
Nationalism	191
Fanatical Action without Fanatical Belief	195
Interests and Knowledge	196
Knowledge, Fanaticism, and Nationalism	200
Coerced Ignorance	201
Concluding Remarks	203
References	205
Index	219

Contents · ix