Contents

Preface	ix
One. Two Hundred Years of Reactionary Rhetoric	1
Three Reactions and Three Reactionary Theses	3
A Note on the Term "Reaction"	8
Two. The Perversity Thesis	11
The French Revolution and Proclamation of the Perverse Effect	12
Universal Suffrage and Its Alleged Perverse Effects	19
The Poor Laws and the Welfare State	27
Reflections on the Perversity Thesis	35
Three. The Futility Thesis	43
Questioning the Extent of Change Wrought by the French Revolution: Tocqueville	45
Questioning the Extent of Change Likely to Follow from Universal Suffrage: Mosca and Pareto	50
Questioning the Extent to Which the Welfare State "Delivers the Goods" to the Poor	60
Reflections on the Futility Thesis	69

81	Four. The Jeopardy Thesis
86	Democracy as a Threat to Liberty
110	The Welfare State as a Threat to Liberty and Democracy
121	Reflections on the Jeopardy Thesis
133	Five. The Three Theses Compared and Combined
133	A Synoptic Table
137	The Comparative Influence of the Theses
140	Some Simple Interactions
144	A More Complex Interaction
149	Six. From Reactionary to Progressive Rhetoric
149	The Synergy Illusion and the Imminent-Danger Thesis
154	"Having History on One's Side"
159	Counterparts of the Perversity Thesis
164	Seven. Beyond Intransigence
164	A Turnabout in Argument?
167	How Not to Argue in a Democracy
173	Notes
187	Acknowledgments
191	Index
	The Synergy Illusion and the Imminent-Danger Thesis "Having History on One's Side" Counterparts of the Perversity Thesis Seven. Beyond Intransigence A Turnabout in Argument? How Not to Argue in a Democracy Notes Acknowledgments