Contents

Acknowledgments ix

1 Introduction 3

Part I: The Genealogy of Western Courtesy and Civility

2 From Barbarism to Courtly Manners 23

3 Secular Civility in the Renaissance 51

4 Shifts in Identity and Awareness: Protestantism and the Enlightenment 84

5 French Court Society, the French Revolution, and the Paradoxes of French Civility 98

6 England and the Victorian Ethic 141

7 The American Experience: Democracy and Informal Civility 211

Part II: The Rise of the Late-Modern American Self

8 Conformity, Opposition, and Identity 269

Part III: The Multifaceted Anatomy of Civility

9 Towards a Cultural Sociology of Civility 343
Contents

Part IV: Contemporary French, American, and English Civility and Interaction

10 A Comparative Field Study of France, America, and England 429

Part V: Summing Up

11 Civilizing and Recivilizing Processes 497

Bibliography 531

Index 573