## CONTENTS

_Acknowledgments_ ix  

Introduction 3  

PART ONE: *Creation and Destruction*  

1. Embryos and Future Persons 17  
   1. Protecting Persons 19  
   2. Why Birth Matters 22  
   3. The Moral Value of Embryos That Will Be Born 26  
   4. The Value of Creating Persons 34  
   5. Conclusion 40  

2. The Human Dignity of Embryos?: The German Case 42  
   1. The German Abortion Debate 43  
   2. Embryo Protection in Criminal and Tort Law 50  
   3. The Law for Protecting (Some) Embryos 54  
   4. The Stem Cell Law 58  
   5. Conclusion 60  

3. The Moral Anonymity of Embryos: The American Case 62  
   1. The U.S. Abortion Debate 64  
   2. Tort Law: Prenatal Injury Cases 68  
   3. Criminal Law and the Fetus 71  
   4. Assisted Reproductive Technologies and Stem Cell Research 79  
   5. Conclusion 84
PART TWO: Selection and Manipulation

4. The Limits of Reproductive Choice and Distributive Justice 93
   1. Championing Procreative Liberties: John A. Robertson 94
   2. Embracing Scientific Advance: Ronald Dworkin 99
   3. Ensuring Equal Opportunity: Buchanan et al. 103
      3.1. Genetic Manipulation, Justice, and our Moral System 105
      3.2. Limiting Parental Powers: Respecting a Child's Right to an Open Future 107
      3.3. The Danger of Intergenerational Domination 109
   4. Conclusion 114

5. Troubling Intuitions: Jürgen Habermas and the Dangers of Changing Human Nature 117
   1. Habermas's Rejection of Liberal Eugenics 118
   2. Irreversibility, Responsibility, and Appropriate Attitudes 121
   3. The Anthropological Foundations of Morality 128
   4. Conclusion 134

6. Future Persons and Their Independence 136
   1. Precarious Intergenerational Relationships 138
      1.1. The Non-Identity Problem 138
      1.2. Determining the Nature of Intergenerational Relationships 143
   2. The Importance of Independence 148
      2.1. Natural and Substantial Independence 149
      2.2. Independence and Disability 154
      2.3. Independence Versus the Significance of Dependence 156
      2.4. Independence Versus Autonomy 157
      2.5. Independence as a (Relatively) Independent Notion 158
      2.6. Independence and the Future of Morality 160
   3. Who is Responsible? Exculpating Parents 161
   4. Conclusion 166

Notes 169

Bibliography 187

Index 193