## Contents

## Acknowledgments ix

CHAPTER I Introduction 1
CHAPTER II Trends in Income Distribution 8
CHAPTER III Possible Causes of Rising Income Inequality 20
CHAPTER IV Consumers' Shift to Debt 35
APPENDIX Panel Regression Analysis of
State and National Data 63
CHAPTER V Consumption Theory and Its Critics 73
CHAPTER VI Has This Happened Before? 111
CHAPTER VII Conclusion 129

Notes 133 Bibliography 139 Index 149