Preface ix

 Introduction: Of Ruling Classes and Underclasses: The Laws of Social Mobility 1

## PART I Social Mobility by Time and Place

- 2 Sweden: Mobility Achieved? 19
- 3 The United States: Land of Opportunity 45
- 4 Medieval England: Mobility in the Feudal Age 70
- 5 Modern England: The Deep Roots of the Present 88
- 6 A Law of Social Mobility 107
- 7 Nature versus Nurture 126

## PART II Testing the Laws of Mobility

- 8 India: Caste, Endogamy, and Mobility 143
- 9 China and Taiwan: Mobility after Mao 167
- 10 Japan and Korea: Social Homogeneity and Mobility 182
- 11 Chile: Mobility among the Oligarchs 199
- 12 The Law of Social Mobility and Family Dynamics 212
- 13 Protestants, Jews, Gypsies, Muslims, and Copts:Exceptions to the Law of Mobility? 228
- 14 Mobility Anomalies 253

## PART III The Good Society

- 15 Is Mobility Too Low? Mobility versus Inequality 261
- 16 Escaping Downward Social Mobility 279

Appendix 1: Measuring Social Mobility 287 Appendix 2: Deriving Mobility Rates from Surname Frequencies 296 Appendix 3: Discovering the Status of Your Surname Lineage 301

Data Sources for Figures and Tables 319 References 333 Index 349