# CONTENTS

#### PREFACE xi

# PART ONE

# PREMISES FOR A MODERN THEORY OF POLITICAL ECONOMY 1

Theory: A Tool for Political Inquiry and Political Practice. Human Nature and Politics: Political Choice. The Structure of Preferences. Rationality: The Result of our Restrictions. For Further Reading.

## Chapter 1 GROUP CHOICE 15

Relating Individual Preferences To Social Choices. An Impossibility Theorem Regarding Group Choice. Overview and Proof of Arrow's Impossibility Theorem. Group Choice Procedures Re-Examined. For Further Reading.

# Chapter 2 COLLECTIVE ACTION IN UNORGANIZED GROUPS 32

The Objectives of Political Action: Collective Goods. Individual Behavior and Optimality. Collective Behavior and Suboptimality. For Further Reading.

# Chapter 3 COLLECTIVE ACTION, MARGINAL COST SHARING, AND CONTINGENT PREFERENCES 49

Organizing for Marginal Cost Sharing: Establishing a Threshhold. Adding to the Rationality Assumption. Expected Value Maximization and Collective Action. Overcoming the Barrier to Participation: Supplying Excludable Incentives. For Further Reading.

# Chapter 4 POLITICAL ORGANIZING AND POLITICAL ENTREPRENEURS 66

Entrepreneurial Leaders. Entrepreneurial Behavior in Varying Contexts. Non-Self-Oriented Entrepreneurs: What Difference? The Ethics of Leadership. For Further Reading.

## PART TWO

# THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF DEMOCRACY 91

Democracy as a Set of Decision Rules. For Further Reading.

# Chapter 5 VOTING 97

The Rational Act of Voting. The Downsian Voter. Rational Ignorance. For Whom Is It Rational To Be More Informed? Forms of Contribution and Participation Other Than Voting. For Further Reading.

## Chapter 6 PARTY PLATFORMS IN A DEMOCRACY 117

Single Peaked Preferences With One Issue. Electoral Competition as "Spatial" Competition. Shortcomings of the Spatial Analogue. Distributional Issues. Vote Trading and Coalitions of Minorities. Some Normative Conclusions. For Further Reading.

#### **INDEX** 141