

CONTENTS

Acknowledgments ix

List of Figures xi

Introduction: Decision time 1

September 11 and the aesthetic decision 1

The chapters 5

Schmitt, Hobbes, Benjamin, Burnham 7

1 States of exception in Yann Martel's
Life of Pi 13

Introduction 13

Political state of exception 14

Psychic state of exception 20

Theological state of exception 28

The politics of allegory 34

2 Autobiography and human rights in Jeffrey
Eugenides' *Middlesex* 40

A failure of reading 40

Reading human rights 43

The political life of sex 50

Sex in theory 56

Autobiography and messianism 61