CONTENTS

Introduction: Logic and Society 1
Notes 9

1. Formal Logic—An Informal Exposition 10
Appendix: Relational logic and social relations 20
Notes 25

2. Possibilistic Reasoning in the Social Sciences 28
Social mobility 28
Finite-state grammars 30
Kinship systems and structuralist thought 33
The evaluation of real national income 35
Endogenous change of tastes 39
Appendix: An impossibility result for context-free grammars . . 42
Notes 44

3. Political Possibility 48
Notes 63

4. Contradictions of the Mind 65
Hegel's theory of contradictions 67
Contradictory desires: master and slave 70
Contradictory desires: the economics of irrationality 77
Contradictory beliefs: Hintikka 81
Contradictory beliefs: Festinger 86
Notes 90

5. Contradictions of Society 96
The fallacy of composition 97
Counterfinality 106
Suboptimality 122
A dual theory of social change 134

Appendix 1: Some notions and problems in game theory 150
Appendix 2: Causality and intentionality: three models of man . . 157
Notes 163

6. Counterfactuals and the New Economic History 175
Three chapters from the history of the notion 176
The problem of historical counterfactuals 181
Imperialism and colonialism 192
Optimism and pessimism 196
The Navigation Acts 201
Railroads and American economic growth 204
American slaves and their history 208
Notes 218

References 221

Index 233