

Contents

PREFACE	xi
PRIMARY SOURCE CITATIONS	xv
1. POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY AND THE GENRE OF LIVES	1
The Problem of Autobiography	1
Confession and Rousseau's Autobiographical Project	8
Autobiography as Moral Fable	13
The Political Use of Moral Fables	19
Politics, the Imitative Arts, and Autobiography	26
The Possibility of Philosophic Autobiography	31
The Necessity of Philosophic Autobiography	38
Rousseau's Intention in the <i>Confessions</i>	46
2. THE NEED FOR A NEW EXEMPLARY LIFE	48
Traditional Exemplary Lives	48
The Citizen: The Case for Cato	50
The Philosopher: The Case for Socrates	54
A Revolution in the Universe: The Case for Jesus	57
Jean-Jacques: The Case against Jesus, Socrates, and Cato	64

3.	THE AWAKENING OF THE IMAGINATION AND THE DEPARTURE FROM NATURE (BOOK I)	76
	The Structure of Part One of the <i>Confessions</i> 76	
	Imagination and Living outside Oneself 79	
	Imagination and Sexuality 84	
	Imagination and Anger: On the Naturalness of the Sentiment of the Just and Unjust 91	
	Imagination and Vanity: Pride versus Vanity 98	
	The Development of the Imagination and the Origin of Crime 100	
	Imagination and the Disruption of Civilized Wholeness 108	
4.	THE ALTERNATIVES FOR CIVILIZED LIFE (BOOKS II–VI)	116
	The Consequences of a Positive Education 116	
	Books II–IV: Living outside Oneself 120	
	Natural, Conventional, and Imaginary Places in the Political Order 133	
	Book V: Subpolitical Social Wholeness 141	
	Book VI: Happiness and Natural Wholeness 147	
	The Loss of Happiness 160	
5.	THE REDISCOVERY OF NATURE (BOOKS VII AND VIII)	164
	The Theme and Structure of Part Two of the <i>Confessions</i> 164	
	Book VII: Amour-propre and Knowledge 167	
	Imagination, the Political Order, and Nature 172	
	Book VIII: "I Saw Another Universe" 183	
	"I Became Another Man" 191	
	Effervescence and Intoxication 194	
6.	THE RETURN TO NATURE? (BOOKS IX–XII)	198
	The Problem of a Return to Nature 198	
	Book IX: "My Soul in Motion": The Failure of Social Wholeness 201	
	Books X and XI: Social Dependence 210	
	Book XII: A Second "Age of Happiness" 221	
	The Conclusion(?) of the <i>Confessions</i> 235	

7. THE SUCCESS OF THE <i>CONFESSIONS</i>	239
Rousseau's Judgment of the <i>Confessions</i> 240	
The <i>Confessions</i> as the Epistemological Foundation of Rousseau's System 243	
The <i>Confessions</i> as an Account of the Life According to Nature 246	
The <i>Confessions</i> as a Moral Fable 248	
 BIBLIOGRAPHY	 253
INDEX	257