# CONTENTS

Preface  ix

1  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