Preface

This book deals with individualism sympathetically. Yet I have tried in the Introduction and recurrently in the chapters to look at a few of the criticisms made of individualism, especially of its core, the doctrine of individual rights. I hope to suggest that when the theory of individualism is associated with democracy, individualism does not promote what its critics say it does—self-seeking and deracination—but instead furthers an aspiration toward a self and a society that stand for something good and that may even enhance existence.


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G.K.

*Princeton, New Jersey*
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