Although the modern age is often described as the age of democratic revolutions, the subject of popular foundings has not captured the imagination of contemporary political thought. Most of the time, democratic theory and political science treat as the object of their inquiry normal politics, institutionalized power, and consolidated democracies. The aim of Andreas Kalyvas’s study is to show why it is important for democratic theorists to rethink the question of democracy’s beginnings. Is there a founding unique to democracies? Can a democracy be democratically established? What are the implications of expanding democratic politics in light of the question of whether and how to address democracy’s beginnings? Kalyvas addresses these questions and scrutinizes the possibility of democratic beginnings in terms of the category of the extraordinary, as he reconstructs it from the writings of Max Weber, Carl Schmitt, and Hannah Arendt and their views on the creation of new political, symbolic, and constitutional orders.

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I am autonomous only if I am the origin of what will be and I know myself as such.

Cornelius Castoriadis

Democracy is, according to its ideal, a fatherless society.

Hans Kelsen
Democracy and the Politics of the Extraordinary

*Max Weber, Carl Schmitt, and Hannah Arendt*

ANDREAS KALYVAS

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Acknowledgments

I would like to thank, first and foremost, Jean Cohen and Ira Katznelson for their invaluable role in bringing this project to completion. For several years, their learned guidance, patience, and enduring support helped me to navigate through the intricacies of twentieth-century political thought. They read with care several earlier drafts and provided detailed commentaries, insightful suggestions, and, when necessary, incisive and constructive criticisms. They introduced me to the joys and responsibilities of scholarly life and taught me the difficult art of moderation. I could not have hoped for better teachers and mentors. I am indebted to both in more ways than I could possibly express here.

I am deeply grateful to Andrew Arato and Richard Bernstein. Andrew Arato commented on the whole manuscript with his exceptional enthusiasm and intelligence. He opened up my mind to a new world of ideas and authors I was not aware of and shared selflessly his encyclopedic knowledge on constitutional theory. His presence and influence are evident in every page of this work. Richard Bernstein meticulously read a late version of the manuscript, inspired me with his thoughtful observations, and encouraged me to persevere when my confidence was failing me. His generosity was decisive in realizing this study. I hope that something of his critical spirit and uncompromising optimism remain visible here.

To Arlene Saxonhouse, besides her exhaustive reading of an earlier draft, I am indebted for something greater: she apprised me of the importance of ancient political thought for my argument and helped me rediscover the ancients. Elizabeth Wingrove has scrupulously read the whole manuscript and quarreled tenaciously with sharp and effective arguments. I am grateful to her for her honesty and friendship. Donald Herzog’s reading provoked me to sharpen my thinking on sovereignty and reminded me never to take
concepts as given. Andreas Huyssen commented on the entire manuscript, and I greatly benefited from his knowledge of German modern history and social theory. Julian Franklin’s work and courses on modern theories of sovereignty introduced me to the concept of constituent power, and conversations with him have been invaluable in helping me to formulate my ideas at a very early stage of this work. Throughout the process of writing this book, Ann Kornhauser kindly shared her expertise and knowledge and offered her time generously.

I am indebted to Paschalis Kitromilides and Nikiforos Diamandouros. Paschalis Kitromilides introduced me to the world of political theory as an undergraduate student at the University of Athens. He taught me to appreciate thinkers and traditions I strongly disagreed with, to overcome ideological divides, and to read carefully the canon. I thank Nikiforos Diamandouros for his advice to embark on graduate studies abroad and for supporting me when I decided to do so. In more recent years, many colleagues and friends have lent their support and encouragement, and my thinking has profited greatly from conversations with them: Nadia Urbinati, Vassilis Lambropoulos, Gabriel Negretto, Mathew Biro, Jan-Werner Müller, Dick Howard, Casiano Hacker-Cordon, Maurizio Viroli, Andrew Norris, Jay Bernstein, Nancy Fraser, Peter Bratsis, Jeffrey Isaac, Jason Frank, Christian Rostboll, Ben Fontana, Silke-Maria Weineck, and Yannis Stavrakakis.

Finally, I must express a very special debt to the late Cornelius Castoriadis for his kindness to engage with the main ideas that became this book. He has been my principal source of inspiration as he first impressed on me how essential the emancipatory content of autonomy is for democracy. If this project has taken the shape it has, it is due to his extraordinary vision, his example as a thinker and militant, and his intellectual integrity.

Permission to reprint the following is gratefully acknowledged: an earlier version of Chapters 2 and 3 appeared in New German Critique (© 2002 by Telos Press), and a much abridged version of Part II appeared in the Cardozo Law Review (© 2000 by Yeshiva University).
Abbreviations

DD Carl Schmitt, *Die Dictatur*, Berlin: Duncker und Humblot, 1994
HV Carl Schmitt, *Der Hüter der Verfassung*, Berlin: Duncker und Humblot, 1996
### Abbreviations

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