Contents

List of Figures page viii
List of Tables x
Preface and Acknowledgments xiii

1 Democratic Accountability and the “Rational” Citizen 1
  1.1 Do Partisan Attachments Undermine Democratic Accountability? 6
  1.2 Our Take: People Are Different 10
  1.3 Reflection Makes Rationality Possible 12
  1.4 Plan of the Book 15

2 A Theory of Individual Differences in Reflection and the Intuitionist Model of Political Reasoning 18
  2.1 Opening the Black Box 19
  2.2 Varying Degrees of Rationality 23
    2.2.1 Two Pathways to Rationality 24
    2.2.2 Capturing Individual Differences in Reflection 27
  2.3 The Influence of Partisan Attachments and the Intuitionist Model of Political Reasoning 35
  2.4 Our Contribution 40

3 Measuring Individual Differences in Reflection 46
  3.1 Need for Cognition 46
  3.2 Need for Affect 49
# Contents

3.3 Do Need for Affect and Need for Cognition Measure Individual Differences in Reflection?  
3.3.1 The Data  54  
3.3.2 Discriminant Validity  63  
3.3.3 Convergent Validity  74  
3.4 Are Democrats More Reflective than Republicans?  85  
3.5 Summary  87  

4 Toeing the Line: Partisan Identities and Policy Attitudes 88  
4.1 Parties, Preferences, and Attitudes 90  
4.2 The Role of Reflection in Attitude Formation 94  
4.3 Party Cue Experiments 96  
4.3.1 Party Cues on a Low Salience Issue: Federalism 98  
4.3.2 Party Cues on a High Salience Issue: Health Care 103  
4.4 Explaining Variation in Partisan Stability 105  
4.5 Summary 110  

5 Throwing the Rascals Out: Partisan Identities and Political Evaluations 113  
5.1 Are Facts in the Eye of the Beholder? 115  
5.2 The Role of Reflection in Political Evaluations 119  
5.3 The Belief Perseverance Experiment 121  
5.4 The Economy and Presidential Evaluations 124  
5.5 Who Votes the Party Line? 130  
5.6 Summary 133  

6 Can’t We Disagree without Being Disagreeable? The Role of Reflection in a Polarized Polity 135  
6.1 Us versus Them: The Affective Roots of Polarization 137  
6.2 Reflection and Polarization 139  
6.2.1 Issue Polarization 140  
6.2.2 Affective Polarization 143  
6.3 Polarizing Rhetoric Contributes to Affective Polarization 145  
6.4 Summary 150  

7 Reflections on the Role of Reflection in Democracies 152  
7.1 Reflection Promotes Democratic Accountability 155
# Contents

7.2 Reflection Does Not Always Lead to Normatively Desirable Outcomes 163
7.3 Scope and Limitations of the Intuitionist Model 165
7.4 Broader Implications and Pathways for Future Research 168
   7.4.1 Psychological Foundations of Motivated Reasoning 168
   7.4.2 Strategies to Motivate Reflection (or Minimize Its Importance) 171
   7.4.3 A Call for Better Measurement 173
7.5 Conclusion 174

Appendix: Details of Empirical Studies and Statistical Analyses 177
   A.1 Description of Studies 177
   A.2 Measuring Need for Affect and Need for Cognition and Model Estimation Strategy 186
   A.3 Question Wording for Covariates 189
   A.4 Image-Level Correlations with NFC/NFA and Distributional Analysis 191
   A.5 Implicit Partisan Affect Test Predictions 195
   A.6 Statistical Tables 196
      A.6.1 Chapter 3 Tables 196
      A.6.2 Chapter 4 Tables 199
      A.6.3 Chapter 5 Tables 202
      A.6.4 Chapter 6 Tables 207
      A.6.5 Chapter 7 Tables 212

Notes 213
References 221
Index 241