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James S. Coleman

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STUDIES IN RATIONALITY
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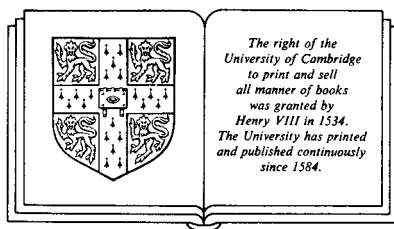
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To ROBERT K. MERTON
*whose excitement with social theory
started me along this path.*

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The chapters of this book, with the exception of chapter 6, constitute minor modifications of papers originally published elsewhere. Because of the scattered locations of their original publication, and because taken together they provide a better exposition of my ideas in social theory than can be found elsewhere, Gudmund Hernes persuaded me to bring them together in a single volume. I am grateful to him and to Jon Elster, editors of this series, for providing me with the opportunity to bring greater coherence and order to those ideas on the relation of individual to collective action that have preoccupied me since the early 1960s.

Shi-Chang Wu and Scott Feld were co-authors of the paper that is now chapter 9, and Anthony Babinec was co-author of the paper that is now chapter 12.

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