

Psychology and the political experience



## Psychology and the Political Experience

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> For Hans and Sophie Scholl, and the men and women of 20 July 1944; especially, Claus, Count Schenk von Stauffenberg

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## **Preface**

This study of psychological dispositions and their interrelations with political attitudes is both theoretical and empirical. In its first aspect, it dwells on themes general to advanced industrial societies; the empirical investigation is located in urban Australia.

It has had many sources of guidance, but my gratitude goes first to Professor Alan Davies and Dr Frank Knöpfelmacher of the University of Melbourne, and to Mr Talis Polis, of La Trobe University, who each, in their, shall I say, very different ways, inspired my interest in this enterprise. My thanks also go to the supervisors of my doctoral thesis at the Australian National University, Dr Don Aitkin. Professor Robert Parker and Mr Michael Kahan, for their sustained encouragement in many improbable vicissitudes. Mr David Bottomley and Mr Irving Saulwick, of the Australian Sales Research Bureau, undertook the interviewing reported in the principal survey, at cost (or possibly beneath it) and deserve my acknowledgement of their generosity to academic research.

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Melbourne, 1974

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