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Waller R. Newell
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TYRANNY

This is the first comprehensive exploration of ancient and modern tyranny as a central theme in the history of political thought. Waller R. Newell argues that modern tyranny and statecraft differ fundamentally from the classical understanding. Newell demonstrates a historical shift in emphasis from the classical thinkers' stress on the virtuous character of rulers and the need for civic education to the modern emphasis on impersonal institutions and cold-blooded political method. The turning point is Machiavelli's call for the conquest of nature. Newell traces the lines of influence from Machiavelli's new science of politics to the rise of Atlanticist republicanism in England and America, as well as the totalitarian regimes of the twentieth century and their effects on the present. By diagnosing the varieties of tyranny from erotic voluptuaries like Nero, the steely determination of reforming conquerors like Alexander the Great and Julius Caesar, and modernizing despots such as Napoleon and Ataturk to the collectivist revolutions of the Jacobins, Bolsheviks, Nazis, and Khmer Rouge, Newell shows how tyranny is every bit as dangerous to free democratic societies today as it was in the past.

Waller R. Newell is Professor of Political Science and Philosophy at Carleton University. He is the author of *The Soul of a Leader: Character, Conviction, and Ten Lessons in Political Greatness* (2009); *The Code of Man: Love, Courage, Pride, Family, Country* (2003); *What Is a Man? 3,000 Years of Wisdom on the Art of Manly Virtue* (2000); and *Ruling Passion: The Erotics of Statecraft in Platonic Political Philosophy* (2000).

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As I was nearing the completion of this book, the world was being inspired by the struggle for freedom unfolding across the Arab lands. During that same period and for some time preceding it, according to Freedom House, the world's democracies had been in retreat while tyrannical forces were on the rise. We seem to be living through an era in which expectations for freedom and the proliferation of tyranny are intensifying simultaneously. More than ever, then, it is incumbent on us to study tyranny, attempt to identify its varieties, and try to anticipate its emergence and hostility to the forces of freedom. Tyranny is generally an unpleasant subject, but one does not think about tyranny because one wants to think about unpleasant things. Rather, if one wants to think, it must be about both pleasant and unpleasant things.

This book grew out of many years of reflection, and some of the chapters (1, 3, 4, 5, and a portion of 6) contain greatly transformed and lengthened versions of earlier articles. The Introduction, Chapters 2 and 7, and the Conclusion are entirely new. None of the chapters, however, simply duplicates the content of the earlier articles, because I only arrived at the central thesis of this book through writing them. They have now been reshaped in light of that thesis, which I set forth in the Introduction. This book can be read entirely on its own, independent of my other writings. At the same time, it does draw on, and is the scholarly culmination of, my earlier books on Plato, the manly virtues, and political leadership.

Earlier versions of some of the chapters were presented at Peterhouse College Cambridge, Yale University, and the University of Toronto. I gratefully acknowledge the stimulation and the hospitality I received

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This book is dedicated to my best friend and collaborator, my wife Jacqueline Etherington Newell.