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Victor Gourevitch, the editor and translator, is the William Griffin Professor of Philosophy (Emeritus) at Wesleyan University, Connecticut.
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ROUSSEAU

The Discourses
and Other Early Political Writings

EDITED AND TRANSLATED BY
VICTOR GOUREVITCH
Wesleyan University, Connecticut

Second Edition
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Preface to the First Edition

I am grateful to the many colleagues and friends from whom I have learned about Rousseau, or who have called my attention to infelicities or occasional mistakes in the translations and in the Editorial Notes, among them Steven Angle, Jon Barlow, Joshua Cohen, Maurice Cranston, Lydia Goehr, Wolfgang Iser, Leon Kass, Sam Kerstein, Ralph Leigh, Mark Lilla, John McCarthy, Terence Marshall, Heinrich Meier, Donald J. Moon, Robert D. Richardson Jr., Charles Sherover, Karlheinz Stierle, William Trousdale, and Robert Wokler. Professor Raymond Geuss has been unstinting in his advice regarding the content and the form of the Introductions.

Annotating texts as varied and as rich in references of every kind as these is a cumulative task. No single editor is so learned as to pick up and identify every one of Rousseau’s sources and allusions. All students of these rich and rewarding texts are in debt to the learned editors who have come before us, and we can only hope to repay a part of that debt by doing our share in helping those who will come after us. After a time some references become common property. I have named the sources and editions I have consulted in acknowledgment of such general debts. In the cases where I am aware of owing information to a particular editor, or an accurate or felicitous rendering to a particular translator, I have indicated that fact. In some cases I mention differences with a given edition; it should be clear that by doing so, I also indicate my esteem for that edition: it is the one worth taking seriously. I have recorded specific help in making sense of a particular
Preface

passage or in tracking down an obscure quotation in the corre-
sponding Editorial Note.

Several of the translations and of the critical apparatus accom-
ppanying them in this volume originally appeared in Jean-Jacques
Rousseau, The First and Second Discourses, together with the Replies
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from its copy of the first edition of the Second Discourse.

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adequately to acknowledge.

I dedicate these volumes to the memory of my father.
Preface to the Second Edition

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Victor Gourevitch

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