## Contents

| List of Figures | page viii |
| List of Tables  | ix        |
| Acknowledgments| x         |

### 1. The Long History of Birth Control
- Introduction 1
- The Outlines of Legitimacy 6
- Background to a Mass Movement 8
- Birth Control Methods 8
- Regulating Birth Control 14
- Population Thought in America 15
- Power in the Birth Control Movement 20
- The Story of Birth Control: Historians and Gender 22
- The Story of Birth Control: Demographers and Modernization 25
- Fertility and Ideas about Time 28
- Subjective Modernization 28
- Being across Time 33
- Note on Parameters and Methods 34

### 2. Race Suicide: The Moral Economy of Birth Control, 1903–1908
- Public Opinion before Polling 37
- Explaining Fertility Decline: Self and Society 41
- Moral Economy 44
- Worldliness and Transcendence 46
- Time 51
- Gender 53
- Conclusions 57
Contents

3 Sensible as Spinach: The Moral Economy of Birth Control, 1927–1935 65
   Fracture and the New Moral Economy 66
   Religious Pronatalism 72
   Naturism and Eugenics 76
   Activists 78
   Gender 81
   Conclusion: Privatizing Reproduction 84
   Epilogue: Baby Bust to Baby Boom 87

4 Dear Friend: Citizen Letters to Birth Controllers 91
   The Letters 93
   Justifying Birth Control 95
      Health 96
      Well-being 100
      Living Standards 103
   Movement Consciousness 106
      Legal Reform 108
      Clinics and Contraceptive Provision 110
      Eugenics 114
      Feminism 115
      Sexual Liberation 117
   Conclusions 121

5 Missionary Work: Touring America for Birth Control 122
   The Process of Contraceptive Legitimation 125
   Overcoming the Stigma of Radicalism 127
   Popular Science 130
   Repealing Reticence 133
   Progress, Eugenics and Naturism 137
   Regional and Rural–Urban Divides 139
   Conclusions 140

6 Marriage as It Is: Birth Control on the Radio 142
   The Respondents 144
   The Wider Controversy 145
   Favorability 149
   Pragmatism 150
   Progress 153
   Liberal Optimism 154
   Gender, Feminism, and Companionate Marriage 156
   Western Americans and Birth Control 157
   Conclusions 159
## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Conclusion and Epilogue</td>
<td>161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Conclusion</td>
<td>161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Epilogue: Global Fertility Control and Liberal Modernity</td>
<td>165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Globalization of Low Fertility</td>
<td>166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Does Low Fertility Endanger Liberalism in Substance?</td>
<td>170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Does Low Fertility Endanger Liberalism in Perception?</td>
<td>173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Liberal Pronatalism?</td>
<td>177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Will to Transcendence</td>
<td>181</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Conclusion</td>
<td>185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix</td>
<td></td>
<td>188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notes</td>
<td></td>
<td>201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bibliography</td>
<td></td>
<td>271</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Index</td>
<td></td>
<td>294</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>