

Table of contents

Preface | 11

INTRODUCTION

Chapter 1

**Doing justice to responsibility:
The primordial political nature
of Levinas' philosophy** | 17

- 1 Orientation: Levinas as political philosopher | 17
- 2 "There are always at least three...":
Urgency and primacy of the political relation | 19
- 2.1 The constitution of political meaning | 21
- 2.2 Politics: the indispensable translation of the Saying to the Said | 23
- 3 Clarifications on the title | 28

PART 1

ETHICS AFTER THE COLONIES:

THE GLOBAL SCOPE

OF LEVINAS' POLITICAL THOUGHT | 33

Chapter 2

Ethnography, atheism, decolonisation | 35

- 1 Lucien Lévy-Bruhl, or the use of ethnography
for ontology and politics | 36
- 1.1 "To be is to participate" | 36
- 1.2 Heidegger, nostalgia, cruelty and the eclipse of monotheism | 42
- 1.3 Ethnography, ontology and socio-political criticism | 45
- 2 Claude Lévi-Strauss, decolonisation and indifference | 50
- 3 Conclusion: the politics of Levinas' philosophy of alterity | 55

Chapter 3

The range of the political:

Decolonisation as a case in point | 59

- 1 From situated thought to global consequences | 59
- 2 Decolonisation, colonisation: figures of the global | 61
- 3 For a globalised world | 68

PART 2

LEVINAS' POST-ANTI-HUMANIST HUMANISM

AND AFTER | 77

Chapter 4

Humanism and anti-humanism

in Levinas' reflection on Jewish education | 83

- 1 "For a Hebraic humanism" | 84
- 2 "Anti-humanism and education" | 93
- 3 Universalism and authority: an uncertain conclusion | 100
- 4 Changing of the guards: Talmudic humanism
and a philosophical post-anti-humanist humanism | 102

Chapter 5

Levinas' post-anti-humanist humanism:

Humanism of the other | 105

- 1 First attempts at a political and ontological formulation
of the problem | 107
- 2 The crisis of humanism | 114
- 2.1 End of the subject | 116
- 2.2 Questioning the rationality of the *animal rationale* | 117
- 2.3 Cultural relativity or the death of God | 118
- 3 Humanism and ethnicity | 121
- 4 "Ethical culture" and the "cultural and aesthetic notion
of meaning" | 127
- 5 "Real humanism": an un-likely family portrait | 134
- 5.1 Sartre: humanism as existentialism | 136
- 5.2 Heidegger: "humanism" in the extreme sense | 138
- 5.3 Althusser: humanism as ideology | 142

Chapter 6

After Levinas:

The risk of irresponsible responsibility | 147

- 1 Universalism and particularism: Marion and Bernasconi | 147
- 2 Responsibility and irresponsibility | 151
- 2.1 Can a Levinasian kill? From the original contradiction
to the participation of practice in the meaning of the ethical | 152
- 2.2 Infinite responsibility and the polysemy of transgression | 157
- 2.3 Mediation: the irreducible political condition
of responsibility | 162
- 3 After Levinas | 166

PART 3
POLITICAL RESPONSIBILITY
FOR A GLOBALISED WORLD | 175

Chapter 7

Levinas and Max Weber

on being called for politics | 179

- 1 An inhospitable world: disenchantment and polytheism in Weber and Levinas | 179
- 2 Levinas: a *Gesinnungsethiker* or a *Verantwortungsethiker*? | 183
- 2.1 The *prima facie* case for Levinas as “ethicist of principle” | 184
- 2.2 Levinas as political “ethicist of responsibility” | 189
- 2.3 Responsibility elevated to principle or principle elevated to responsibility? | 200

Chapter 8

Towards a post-Levinasian understanding

of responsibility:

the Weberian contribution of Apel | 205

- 1 Justification: Apel and the unavoidability of responsibility | 205
- 2 From a Weberian Apel to a Weberian Levinas | 209
- 3 Four objectives for a theory of political responsibility | 213

Chapter 9

Ricoeur’s contribution to a notion

of political responsibility for a globalised world | 221

- 1 Ricoeur’s political paradox and appropriation of Weber | 222
- 2 From the political paradox to its integration in the “Little ethics” | 234
- 3 Political action between capacities and conflict | 237
- 4 Responsibility, prudence, collaboration, equity | 244
- 4.1 Remarks on the resources: Levinas and Ricoeur | 245
- 4.2 Ambiguity concerning Ricoeur’s use of the notion of responsibility | 248
- 4.3 Towards a political responsibility for a globalised world | 253

CONCLUSION

FOR A “GOOD ENOUGH” JUSTICE | 267

Bibliography | 273

- 1 Abbreviations | 273
- 2 General Bibliography | 277