Preface: A Discourteous Welcome ix

PART I: INTRODUCING THE METAPHYSICS OF TRUST 1
First Parable: A Failed Escape 2
1 Trust and Orientation 7
2 The Metaphysics of Everyday Life 14
3 Finitude and Trust 21
4 A Recapitulation 25

PART II: WEALTH AND APPROPRIATION: METAPHYSICS OF CREDIT 31
Second Parable: The Usurper 32
5 Land, Human Power and Capital 38
6 The Wealth of Significance 49
7 More or Less Real 56
8 Pleasure within Limits 64
9 Varieties of Appropriation 73
10 Living Economically 80
Contents

PART III: POWER AND PARTICIPATION: POLITICS OF CREDIT 85
Third Parable: The City of Justice 86
11 Religion, Reason and Will 89
12 State Power 102
13 Individual Power 110
14 Respect and Participation 119
15 Justice and Metaphysics 127
16 Politics of Faith 138

PART IV: NECESSITY AND GRACE: THEOLOGY OF CREDIT 145
Fourth Parable: The Great Machine of Credit 146
17 The Birth of the Modern Age 155
18 The End of Global Capitalism 166
19 The Miracle of Redemption 174
20 The Potency of Ideas 178
21 Trust and Grace 186
Conclusion: Repetition 198
Notes 205
Index 223