

Acknowledgements

Introduction

1. The collective will. From the political to the social

“Bearing the people’s person”: Hobbes on unity through representation

“A moral and collective body of many members”: Rousseau’s unitary state

“A unique whole composed of integral parts”: national unity during the French Revolution

“Politics is to be wrought by social means”: Burke and de Maistre on the pre-eminence of the social

The natural and the social: the notion of social causality

“Determined by its character and past”: Taine’s traditionalist arguments

Between the social and the political: Esmein on national sovereignty

Sociological arguments for the ‘Rights of man’

A sociology for the Republic: Alfred Fouillée

2. Nations and their adversaries as a theme of social thought

National singularity and the community of nations: Montesquieu, Encyclopédie, Mme de Staël

The political creation of national characters: Rousseau

Increasingly distinct nations in a social age: Michelet

“A spiritual principle”: the nation according to Renan

A racial theory of national characters: Gustave Le Bon

Social thought and the figure of the enemy

Societies and nations as totalities: Emile Durkheim

3. From ‘character’ to ‘culture’. Social thought and conceptual change

‘National character’: varieties of understanding

“A continuous fermentation”: Gabriel Tarde’s social ontology

“No such thing as a collective personality”: Max Weber’s nominalist sociology

Exchange and flux: cultural forms according to Franz Boas

Society and ‘conscience collective’: Durkheim on society and morality

An object for the human sciences: the rise of the culture concept

4. ‘In us, but not of us’. The location of society according to Durkheim

The question of the material substratum

Individual and collective representations

Collective consciousness and the externality of social facts

Religion, collective ideation, and “Homo duplex”

5. The national and the transnational: Marcel Mauss

Before nations: from hordes to empires

“A sufficiently integrated society”: defining the nation

The political understanding of a social form

Excursus on a philological problem

“Everything can be shared between societies”: a sociology of international relations

The question of a human civilisation

“An entity with a thousand dimensions”: society and the category of relation

Epilogue

Bibliography

Index of Subjects

Index of Names