I have many people to thank for help and encouragement in many forms during the long gestation of this book. There are the participants of the History Research in Progress seminar at the University of Sussex, with whom I tried out the idea of this book in a paper presented in 2002 and, three years later, much of what is now the chapter on the I.L.P. The support of many other individuals, some of whom will be unaware of their contribution, has been vital. Not least these include Hazel Ainsley, Peter Campbell, Keith Cowell, John Gurney, Tim Halliday, Rachel Hammersley, Roger Hinton, Alun Howkins, Pam Kendall, Siân Reynolds, Gareth Stedman Jones, Beryl Williams, and the late Walter Kendall. And it was for my birthday in 1974 that Victor Rabinovitch gave me a copy of Macpherson’s *The Real World of Democracy* — suitably annotated — thus inadvertently planting one of the seeds of this project. I have tested almost to breaking point the friendship of Logie Barrow and Tony Carew by trying out many attempts at draft chapters over the years. More recently, Kevin Morgan gave me thoughtful feedback on a draft of the penultimate chapter. Their help has been invaluable and I thank them — while absolving them, of course, of any responsibility for the final product. I must also thank all those at AU Press, including Tiffany Regaudie, Megan Hall, Natalie Olsen, and Renata Jass, and, above all, Alvin Finkel and Pamela Holway. More than anyone, I thank my wife, Sue Bullock, for keeping me from giving up on so many occasions and for everything else.