

PREFACE

Most of the papers collected in this volume were published in the last twenty years and focus on the comparative analysis of civilizations—especially of the Axial civilization and of modernities—two topics which constitute—as I explained in chapter I—central focus my work in this period. Many of my theoretical papers which have been published during this time, have been collected in the volume *Power, Trust and Meaning*—University of Chicago Press—1995.

Given the relatively long time space and the numerous occasions for which the papers were written—there are many repetitions or overlaps between them. These were not taken out so as to keep the flow of the argument of each of these.

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S.N. Eisenstadt