

CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE

CONSCIENCE, TACTICS, AND THE LAW

Carl Cohen

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TO MURIEL

FOREWORD

Some of the central ideas of this book were first presented, in much abbreviated form, in the pages of *The Nation*, whose editors have graciously supported and warmly encouraged their later development. I acknowledge here my debt to them, first; second, to the Captain and crew of the *M/S Roseville*, of the Barber Line, whose sparkling decks so long served as my study; and third, to my students at The University of Michigan, whose idealism and intelligence have helped both to inspire my work and to improve it.

Many will not find what I say about civil disobedience entirely palatable at first. I beg the reader to pursue the argument to its end before appraising it; and whatever his final judgment of civil disobedience or its practitioners, I take the liberty of reminding him that many of the causes for the sake of which civil disobedience has been courageously undertaken remain our pressing moral concerns. "The great interests of humanity" William Ellery Channing said, having the abolitionists in mind, "do not lose their claims on us because sometimes injudiciously maintained."

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