

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgments xi

1. The Gist of It 3

THE CENTRAL ELEMENTS OF THE THEORY 8

OTHER PERSPECTIVES 23

CONCLUSION 31

2. Microfoundations 34

MEANING AND MEMBERSHIP: ON THE ORIGIN OF THE EXISTENTIAL
FUNCTION OF THE SOCIAL 35

THE COLLECTIVE AS EXISTENTIAL REFUGE 40

SOCIAL SKILL 45

SOCIAL SKILL IN ACTION 50

CONCLUSION 53

3. Macroconsiderations 57

THE "EMBEDDEDNESS" OF STRATEGIC ACTION FIELDS 59

AN EXCURSUS ON FORMAL ORGANIZATION AND BUREAUCRACY 64

THE STATE AS A SYSTEM OF STRATEGIC ACTION FIELDS 67

THE IMPACT OF STATE FIELDS ON NONSTATE STRATEGIC
ACTION FIELDS 71

THE DEPENDENCE OF STATES AND STATE FIELDS ON
NONSTATE FIELDS 74

INTERNAL GOVERNANCE UNITS 77

HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE PROFESSIONS 79

CONCLUSION 80

4. Change and Stability in Strategic Action Fields	83
CURRENT DEBATES	83
THE EMERGENCE OF STRATEGIC ACTION FIELDS	86
SUSTAINING A SETTLEMENT: THE REPRODUCTION OF FIELDS	96
SETTLEMENTS AND RUPTURES: STABILITY AND CRISIS IN STRATEGIC ACTION FIELDS	99
REESTABLISHING FIELD STABILITY	104
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SOCIAL SKILL AND THE STATE OF THE STRATEGIC ACTION FIELD	108
CONCLUSION	112
 5. Illustrating the Perspective: Contention over Race in the United States, 1932–1980 and the Rise and Fall of the Mortgage Securitization Industry, 1969–2011	 114
THE CIVIL RIGHTS STRUGGLE, 1932–1980	115
SETTING THE STAGE: CONTENTION OVER RACE IN THE UNITED STATES, 1781–1877	116
THE FIELD OF RACIAL POLITICS, 1877–1932	117
DESTABILIZING CHANGES: THE DEPRESSION AND THE COLD WAR	121
THE EPISODE OF CONTENTION AND THE RISE OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT	127
A NEW SETTLEMENT	129
THE DECLINING SALIENCE OF THE COLD WAR DYNAMIC	130
THE REVENGE OF THE DIXIECRATS AND THE END OF THE NEW DEAL ELECTORAL REGIME	130
THE RISE OF BLACK POWER AND THE RUPTURE IN THE MOVEMENT STRATEGIC ACTION FIELDS	132
THE INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT AND ITS IMPACT ON OTHER STRATEGIC ACTION FIELDS	134
SUMMING UP: AN IMPORTANT POSTSCRIPT	136
THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE U.S. MORTGAGE MARKET, 1969–2011	140
THE DOMINANT STRATEGIC ACTION FIELDS OF THE MORTGAGE MARKET, 1934–1987	142
CHANGES THAT DESTABILIZED THE MORTGAGE MARKET, 1969–1987	145
SETTLEMENT AND THE NEW STRATEGIC ACTION FIELD	149
THE RISE OF THE INDUSTRIAL MODEL OF THE MBS MARKET, 1993–2007	151
THE CAUSES OF THE CRISIS	157
THE IMPACT OF THE STRATEGIC ACTION FIELD BASED ON THE INDUSTRIAL MODEL ON OTHER STRATEGIC ACTION FIELDS	159
CONCLUSION	161

6. Methodological Considerations	164
THE ROADMAP	165
HOW TO TELL IF A STRATEGIC ACTION FIELD EXISTS	167
EMERGENCE, STABILITY, AND CRISIS, PART 1	170
THE PROBLEM OF THE STATE IN RELATION TO STRATEGIC ACTION FIELDS	173
EMERGENCE, STABILITY, AND CRISIS, PART 2	174
SOCIAL SKILL, STRATEGIC ACTION, AND THE QUESTION OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP	178
CONSIDERING DIFFERENT PHILOSOPHIES OF SCIENCE AND METHODOLOGICAL STRATEGIES	183
A POSITIVIST APPROACH TO STRATEGIC ACTION FIELDS	188
REALIST APPROACHES TO THE STUDY OF STRATEGIC ACTION FIELDS	192
THE PROBLEM OF EMPIRICISM	196
CONCLUSION	198
7. Toward a Theory of Strategic Action Fields	200
SO WHAT IS NEW HERE?	200
THE PROBLEM OF THE ACCUMULATION OF KNOWLEDGE IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES	208
THE SURPRISING DISCOVERY OF FIELDS	209
TOWARD A COLLABORATIVE PROGRAM OF THEORY AND RESEARCH ON FIELDS	215
<i>Bibliography</i>	223
<i>Index</i>	233