Sidney Hook refused throughout his life to allow his first and best book on Karl Marx to be reprinted. Whether it is because I am still sufficiently young and foolish, or because my opposition to social injustice only deepens over time rather than receding, I am pleased to see that enough interest exists in Young Sidney Hook to warrant its republication in paperback. In the belief that books reflect their moment of production, I have not altered the text in the slightest. I wish, however, to acknowledge the wisdom of two criticisms.

The first came from a few professional philosophers who thought the book ought to include more on the technical aspects of pragmatism. Initially I resisted this point, feeling that pragmatism was already at the center of the argument, interwoven throughout. I thought of the book as standing adjacent to a number of other intellectual histories of American pragmatism, and did not see any need to replicate them. However, I now believe the criticism warranted. To remedy it, I have appended an article of mine—“Pragmatism and Its Critics,” originally for Scribner’s Encyclopedia of American Cultural and Intellectual History—to provide readers with an overview of the pragmatist tradition.

The second criticism was made by my friend, the late Daniel Singer, European correspondent for The Nation. On finishing Young Sidney Hook, Daniel told me he understood my reluctance to condemn Hook for heresy,
but he wished I had drawn a difference between a heretic and a renegade, so as to more sharply criticize Hook for turning into the latter. This useful distinction, which Daniel drew from a classic essay by his mentor Isaac Deutscher, I have since thought might have lent greater clarity to my analysis in the concluding chapter.

In recent years, I have defended and extended my thinking about Hook. I wrote the historical introduction to Hook’s 1933 book *Towards the Understanding of Karl Marx* when it was reprinted by Prometheus Books in 2002, as well as several essays on Hook’s philosophy and politics: “Left Hook, Right Hook: The Rules of Engagement,” *Chronicle of Higher Education* (12 July 2002); “The Rise and Fall of Sidney Hook,” *New Politics*, no. 34 (winter 2003); “Why Wouldn’t Sidney Hook Permit the Republication of His Best Book?” *Historical Materialism* 11:4 (2004); and “Flexibility and Revolution,” in *Sidney Hook Reconsidered*, ed. Matthew Cotter (Buffalo: Prometheus Books, 2004). Readers who seek to acquire supplementary detail on Hook may wish to locate these writings. I can attest, however, that their interpretation of Marxism and pragmatism in Hook’s early thought does not differ fundamentally from that provided in the following pages, by which I stand.

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Preface to the Paperback Edition