CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION | 1

1. Los Angeles and Points South | 12

2. Crucible: Gangs and the Struggle for Cultural Dominance | 33


4. After the Riots: The Dawn of Federalization | 87

5. Death, Treachery, and Taxes | 118

6. Blowback and the Cardinal | 158

7. “Hi, We’re from Washington, and We’re Here to Help You!” | 192

8. A Thirst after Justice: Medical Examiner Case No. 338 | 231

9. The Baker’s Tale | 259

CONCLUSION | 277

NOTES | 283

INDEX | 319