# CONTENTS

*Acknowledgments* ix  
Introduction: The Biopolitics of Waste 1  

**PART I. ANTEBELLUM ROOTS**  
1. Thomas Jefferson’s Ideal 9  
2. The Decay of the Old 27  

**PART II. NEW CONSTRUCTIONS**  
3. Searching for Order 51  
4. “How Do You Make Them So Clean and White?” 79  

**PART III. MATERIAL CONSEQUENCES**  
5. Dirty Work, Dirty Workers 109  
6. Waste and Space Reordered 137  

**PART IV. ASSIMILATION AND RESISTANCE**  
7. Out of Waste into Whiteness 169  
8. “We Are Tired of Being at the Bottom” 192  
Conclusion: A Dirty History 217  

*Notes* 223  
*Bibliography* 243  
*Index* 263  
*About the Author* 275