Contents

	List of Maps and Figures	vii
	Foreword and Dedication	ix
	Acknowledgements	xi
Ι	Farewell to Humanity's Childhood Or, why this is not a book about the origins of inequality	I
2	Wicked Liberty The indigenous critique and the myth of progress	27
3	Unfreezing the Ice Age In and out of chains: the protean possibilities of human politics	78
4	Free People, the Origin of Cultures, and the Advent of Private Property (Not necessarily in that order)	120
5	Many Seasons Ago Why Canadian foragers kept slaves and their Californian neighbours didn't; or, the problem with 'modes of production'	164
6	Gardens of Adonis The revolution that never happened: how Neolithic peoples avoided agriculture	210
7	The Ecology of Freedom How farming first hopped, stumbled and bluffed its way around the world	249
8	Imaginary Cities Eurasia's first urbanites – in Mesopotamia, the Indus valley, Ukraine and China – and how they built cities	276
	without kings	

CONTENTS

9	Hiding in Plain Sight	328
	The indigenous origins of social housing and democracy	
	in the Americas	
10	Why the State Has No Origin	359
	The humble beginnings of sovereignty, bureaucracy	
	and politics	
ΙΙ	Full Circle	441
	On the historical foundations of the indigenous critique	
12	Conclusion	493
	The dawn of everything	
	A.T.	
	Notes	527
	Bibliography	611
	Index	675