Contents

Preface ix Acknowledgments xiii

Introduction 1

ONE The Ancient World 15

Two Religion Rejects Suicide 45

THREE To Be or Not to Be: New Questions in the Rise of Modernism 63

FOUR Secular Philosophy Defends Suicide 90

FIVE The Argument of Community 116

SIX Modern Social Science on Community and Influence 149

viii Contents

SEVEN Hope for Our Future Selves 175

EIGHT The Twentieth Century's Two Major Voices on Suicide 193

NINE Suffering and Happiness 209

TEN Modern Philosophical Conversations 224

Conclusion 231

Notes 235

Index 253