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MISTRUST
AN ETHNOGRAPHIC THEORY

Matthew Carey



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“For Si Lahsen, the slipperiest of fishes. Friend and teacher.”

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Acknowledgments

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It goes without saying that where I err, the fault is mine: I should have checked; and where the argument is flawed, the fault is also mine: I should have thought a little harder.

Note on transliteration

All transliterations from the Russian or Arabic are standard. There is no one standardized system for transliterating Tashelhiyt into Latin script. As this is not a linguistically-minded publication, I have opted to make it as readable as possible for a non-specialist by following the more familiar Arabic transcription system. The following sounds have no standard English equivalent:

gh—a voiced ulular fricative, like a rolled French r

kh—a voiceless ulular fricative, like the ch in ‘loch’

q—a deep glottal stop

r—a Spanish rolled r

‘—a voiced epiglottal, like retching

Other conventions include:

ay—a diphthong, as in ‘eye’

i—a long vowel, as in ‘sheep’

j—a soft French j

All proper nouns and common nouns are spelled without diacritics.

Without the general trust that people have in each other, society itself would disintegrate

Georg Simmel

You must trust and believe in people, or life becomes impossible

Anton Chekhov

If you once forfeit the confidence of your fellow citizens, you can never regain their respect and esteem

Abraham Lincoln

Whatever matters to human beings, trust is the atmosphere in which it thrives

Sissela Bok (philosopher)

Trust is the glue of life. It's the most essential ingredient in effective communication. It's the foundational principle that holds all relationships

Stephen. R. Covey (management guru)

If you cannot trust yourself, you cannot even trust your mistrust of yourself—so that without this underlying trust in the whole system of nature you are simply paralyzed

Alan. W. Watts (Californian philosopher-guru)

Trust is what makes contracts, plans and everyday transactions possible; it facilitates the democratic process... It is essential for our lives. It is trust, more than money, that makes the world go round

Joseph Stiglitz (economist)

Trusting ought to be a human right

Jacques Attali (French politician)

When you learn to trust in trust, then you become confident

Jean-Claude van Damme (actor)