The Great Demographic Illusion

Majority,
Minority, and
the Expanding
American
Mainstream

Richard Alba

PRINCETON AND OXFORD

CONTENTS

Acknowledgments xi

- Introduction: The Narrative of the Majority-Minority Society 1
- 2 The Enigma of November 2016 16
- 3 The Power of the Demographic Imagination 35
- The Demographic Data System and the Surge of
 Young Americans from Mixed Family Backgrounds 57
- What We Know about Americans from Mixed Minority-White Families 88
- 6 Some Ideas and History for Understanding Today's Ethno-Racial Mixing 137
- 7 Assimilation in the Early Twenty-First Century 180
- 8 Social Policies to Broaden Mainstream Assimilation 213
- 9 Toward a New Understanding of American Possibilities 243

Notes 263 Bibliography 279 Index 303