

# THE SECOND WORLD WAR IN AMERICAN LITERATURE

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### **ABSTRACT**

This article covers the processes and details of World War II in this article. In addition, the article talks about the development of American literature and the changes that occurred during the Second World War. In the article, we consider the development of American literature during the world wars.

Key words: World War, literature, worldview, drama, poetry, playwrights

# INTRODUCTION

There have been many terrible wars in world history. But until the 20<sup>th</sup> century, none of them was at the world level. It was in the age when the human mind was the most mature that humanity made not one but two world wars. In addition to the fact that millions of people died in these wars, cities and villages, industrial enterprises, and infrastructure facilities, which were built with difficulty by mankind, were razed to the ground and destroyed in a large part of the earth's surface. In particular, the scale of the Second World War, which took place between 1939 and 1945, was extremely large. 73 countries, which at that time owned 80% of the earth's surface, took part in this war. Just as every nation has its own literature, America has its unique vocabulary that cannot be compared with the artistic creations of other nations and countries.

### **FINDINGS**

A major asset of 18<sup>th</sup> century American literature was its educational journalism under the name of Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson and Thomas Paine. These three people entered the history of American social thought, left a significant mark in the history of world literature. Disappointment with the results of the country's post-revolutionary development leads American writers to search for a romantic ideal against inhuman reality. American romantics are creators of US national literature. This, first of all, distinguishes them from their European counterparts. In Europe, at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, national literature embodied the qualities that had been formed for almost the whole millennium and became a unique national



characteristic, while American literature, like the nation, was still being defined. The American romantics were entrusted with a very serious task, they had to help in the formation of a whole complex moral and philosophical code of the young nation, in addition to the formation of a national literature. The work of a group of young writers who entered literature immediately after the end of the First World War and reflected the difficult conditions of post-war development in their artistic works became an eloquent and unique phenomenon in the literature of the 20s. During the Second World War, American writers took part in the fight against Hitlerism: they condemned Hitler's aggression and supported the fight against the fascist invaders. Publicist articles and reports of war correspondents are widely published. Later, the topic of the Second World War is reflected in the books of many writers. After the Second World War, there was a slight decline in the development of literature, but this did not apply to poetry and drama, where poets Robert Lowell and Alan Ginsberg, Gregory Corso and Lawrence Ferlinghetti, playwrights Arthur Miller, Tennessee Williams created. In the years after the war, the anti-racist theme characteristic of Negro literature deepens. This is confirmed by the poetry and prose of Langston Hughes, the novels of John Killenz, and the drama of Lorraine Hensbury. During the Second World War, the ruling circles of the United States succeeded in subjugating many writers. And for the first time on such a scale, US literature was placed at the service of government propaganda. And as many critics have pointed out, this process had a disastrous effect on the development of American literature, which, in their opinion, was clearly confirmed in its postwar. After World War II, American literature became vast and diverse in subject matter, format and purpose. Currently, there is little consensus on how to divide the last 80 years into periods or movements. It will probably take more time before scientists make those decisions. That being said, since 1939 there are a number of important writers whose works can be considered "classics" and can be winged.

In 1929, three novels about war were published simultaneously in different countries: in England – Richard Aldington's "Death of a Hero", in the USA – Ernest Hemingway's "A Farewell to Arms", in Germany – Erich Remarque's novels "No change on the western front". Novels were written by war participants and imbued with anti-war spirit. All three immediately became known to the whole world. The novels revealed the bloody, inhuman nature of the war with amazing power. The authors only described the events they saw and experienced. They spoke angrily about the hypocrisy, deceit and hypocrisy of the ruling circles. According to his worldview, the English writer Bernard Shaw, who supported the ideas of socialism



and is considered one of the highest peaks of English culture in terms of his talent, is a bright star of world culture of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. His works were highly appreciated all over the world, and in 1925 Shaw was awarded the Nobel Prize in literature. Bernard Shaw's great contribution to world culture is that he founded the genre of social drama. America after World War II was changed, but in ways that Americans could not very well reach out and touch. Within World War II, a total of 338 different lines of posters were circulated in the American public that focused on the war, with themes like promoting the purchasing of war bonds, recruitment, and the importance of home efforts[1]

# **CONCLUSION**

The twentieth century has witnessed a significant development in the literature of America and the impact of the two World Wars on the literature and its growth has been most significant. They both post-war kinds of literature of America represent the revolutionary transformation in the world view of the literary figure and the employment of the most modern tools of interpreting the war-affected world. The influence of the post-war world had been evident in the literature of the America of post-World War I. Therefore, the influence of the post-war world is seen in the worldview of the writers of post-World War I. Moreover, in an ultimate conclusion, it will be seen that the two World Wars have been influential in the shaping of American literature. The literature of America has been on the growth for quite a long period and the post War experience of the world has contributed heavily to the development of the literature and most remarkably the American literature in the present age enjoys a prominent position among the literature of the world.

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