

THE SECOND WORLD WAR IN AMERICAN LITERATURE

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ANNOTATION

This article provides information about the role of literature in America during World War II. American Quarterly seems to be a journal that fosters innovative interdisciplinary scholarship within the field of American Studies. It publishes essays that explore various aspects of American societies and cultures, both historically and in contemporary contexts, while also considering global and local perspectives. The journal aims to shed light on the diverse nature of the United States, its relationships with neighboring countries, and its influence on global politics and culture. Additionally, it provides reviews of books, exhibitions, and other forms of media to encompass a wide range of approaches within American Studies.

Key words; Historical, literature, post-world war ,modernist writers.

INTRODUCTION

The post-World War II era in American literature indeed saw a significant shift marked by disillusionment and skepticism toward traditional values and institutions. The trauma of the war deeply influenced the collective psyche, reflected in literature through movements like the Beat Generation and confessional poetry. The Beats rejected mainstream values, embracing non-conformity and spontaneity, while confessional poets delved into deeply personal themes like love, loss, and mental illness. Additionally, writers like Joseph Heller and Kurt Vonnegut explored the impact of war on society and culture, using satire and introspection to depict its absurdity and psychological effects. Overall, this period was characterized by a focus on personal exploration and a questioning of established norms.

ABSTRACT

The period between the two world wars marked a significant moment in American literature, characterized by a "second flowering" as described by Malcolm Cowley. Writers like Faulkner, Hemingway, Steinbeck, and Katherine Anne Porter contributed memorable fiction during this time. Additionally, poets such as Frost, Eliot, and Wallace Stevens, along with playwrights like Eugene O'Neill, left a lasting impact on American literature. After World War II, a new generation of diverse voices emerged, including children of immigrants, African Americans, and eventually women, who brought new perspectives and voices to the literary scene. Writers like Tennessee

Williams, Truman Capote, and James Baldwin tackled dark themes and experimented with new methods, paving the way for the Beat writers who followed.

The aftermath of World War II indeed brought about profound changes in literature, influencing both content and form. There was a notable shift towards themes of religion and spirituality, alongside a deep introspection regarding the structure of literary works and their relationship to the past. This period inspired writers across various genres, from poetry to fiction, to explore themes of bravery, resilience, and optimism in the face of adversity. The transition from Modernism to Postmodernism was marked by a new maturity and diversity in literature, reflecting the changing demographics and social landscape of postwar America. The emergence of a new generation of writers, including immigrants, African Americans, and women, brought fresh perspectives and voices to the literary scene. Despite the conservative social climate, writers from marginalized communities, including homosexuals and bisexuals, gained prominence, contributing to the rich tapestry of postwar literature. There was also a nationalistic fervor evident in some works, reflecting a desire to renew national prestige and esteem. In poetry, various influences such as surrealism, existentialism, and the visual arts led to diverse and experimental forms of expression. The post-war period produced a plethora of remarkable authors, poets, and writers, including Anne Frank, George Orwell, Truman Capote, Samuel Beckett, J.D. Salinger, Vladimir Nabokov, and Jorge Luis Borges, among others, whose works continue to resonate with readers worldwide. excessive materialism. Carlyle reclaims Rousseau as an anti-empiricist who recognizes socialization as a fundamentally unhappy development that can barely contain the inherently violent forces of human nature. The post-Romantic modern self as articulated by Carlyle is defined by its exile from social totality, and by an account of human beings as inherently antisocial

CONCLUSION

The book seems to argue that literary writing, like other forms of communication, operates within a symbolic framework shaped by historical context. It suggests that post-World War II fiction, particularly in Anglo-American literature, often engages with the war's legacy, reflecting broader cultural shifts. The text explores how various fictional works respond to and reflect the personal and cultural impacts of the war. Additionally, it touches on how literature can amplify or revive traumatic experiences, although its impact on society as a whole might be limited.

REFERENCE

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