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978-0-521-86966-9 - Race, Nationalism and the State in British and American Modernism

Patricia E. Chu

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RACE, NATIONALISM AND THE STATE IN BRITISH AND AMERICAN MODERNISM

Twentieth-century authors were profoundly influenced by changes in the way nations and states governed their citizens. The development of state administrative technologies allowed modern Western states to identify, track and regulate their populations in unprecedented ways. Patricia E. Chu argues that innovations of form and style developed by Anglo-American modernist writers chart anxieties about personal freedom in the face of increasing governmental controls. Chu examines a diverse set of texts and films, including works by T. S. Eliot, Katherine Mansfield and Zora Neale Hurston, to explore how modernists perceived their work and their identities in relation to state power. In addition, she sheds new light on modernist ideas about race, colonialism and the post-colonial, as race came increasingly to be seen as a political and governmental construct. This book offers a powerful critique of key themes for scholars of modernism, American literature and twentieth-century literature.

PATRICIA E. CHU has taught at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, East-West University and Brandeis University.

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For my parents, James and Barbara Chu

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Acknowledgments

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