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0521651506 - Literature, Partition and the Nation-State: Culture and Conflict in Ireland, Israel and Palestine

Joe Cleary

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## Literature, Partition and the Nation-State

The history of partition in the twentieth century is one steeped in controversy and violence. That history is comprised of both the cold war partitions in Germany, Vietnam and Korea and the colonial partitions that occurred in Ireland, India, Palestine and Cyprus, as British imperial rule contracted in these locations. *Literature, Partition and the Nation-State* offers an extended study of the social and cultural legacies of state division in Ireland and Palestine, two regions where the trauma of partition continues to shape political events to this day. Focusing on the periods since the 1960s, when the original partition settlements in each region were challenged by Irish and Palestinian nationalists, Joe Cleary's book contains individual chapters on nationalism and self-determination; on the construction of national literatures in the wake of state division; and on influential Irish, Israeli and Palestinian writers, film-makers and public intellectuals, such as Amos Oz, Neil Jordan and Ghassan Kanafani. Bringing debates from several different sites in the 'postcolonial world' into dialogue, *Literature, Partition and the Nation-State* is a radical and enthralling intervention into contemporary scholarship from a range of disciplines on nations and nationalism. The book will be of interest to scholars in Cultural and Postcolonial Studies, Nations and Nationalism, Irish Literature, Middle East Studies and Modern History.

JOE CLEARY is Lecturer in English at the National University of Ireland, Maynooth where he teaches Colonial and Postcolonial Literature, Literary Theory and Renaissance Drama. He has published widely on Irish literature and film and on contemporary political and cultural theory in books and journals such as *The South Atlantic Quarterly* and *Textual Practice*.

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## Cultural Margins

General editor

Timothy Brennan

*Department of Cultural Studies and Comparative Literature and English,  
University of Minnesota*

The series Cultural Margins originated in response to the rapidly increasing interest in postcolonial and minority discourses among literary and humanist scholars in the US, Europe, and elsewhere. The aim of the series is to present books which investigate the complex cultural zone within and through which dominant and minority societies interact and negotiate their differences. Studies in the series range from examinations of the debilitating effects of cultural marginalisation, to analyses of the forms of power found at the margins of culture, to books which map the varied and complex components involved in the relations of domination and subversion. This is an international series, addressing questions crucial to the deconstruction and reconstruction of cultural identity in the late twentieth-century world.

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and Palestine*

*Joe Cleary*



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*For Peter and Mary Cleary*

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[M]any novelists, painters, and poets like Manzoni, Picasso, or Neruda, have embodied the historical experience of their people in aesthetic works, which in turn become recognized as great masterpieces. For the intellectual the task, I believe, is explicitly to universalize the crisis, to give greater human scope to what a particular race or nation suffered, to associate that experience with the suffering of others . . . This does not at all mean a loss in historical specificity, but rather it guards against the possibility that a lesson learned about oppression in one place will be forgotten or violated in another place or time.

—Edward Said

We can always pinpoint differences, it is the easiest of all scholarly tasks, since everything is always different in some ways from everything else across time and space. What is harder and takes priority is to discover similarities.

—Immanuel Wallerstein

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