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0521814995 - Modernism and the Ideology of History: Literature, Politics, and the Past

Louise Blakeney Williams

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MODERNISM AND THE IDEOLOGY OF HISTORY

Louise Williams explores the nature of historical memory in the work of five major Modernists: Yeats, Pound, Hulme, Ford and Lawrence. These Modernists, Williams argues, started their careers with historical assumptions derived from the nineteenth century. But their views on the universal structure of history, on the abandonment of progress and the adoption of a cyclical sense of the past, were the result of important conflicts and changes within the Modernist period. Williams focuses on the period immediately before the First World War, and shows in detail how Modernism developed and why it is considered a unique intellectual movement. She also revisits the theory that the Edwardian age was a difficult period of transition to the modern world. Finally, she illuminates the contribution of non-Western culture to the literature and thought of the period. This wide-ranging and inter-disciplinary study is essential reading for literary and cultural historians of the Modernist period.

LOUISE BLAKENEY WILLIAMS is Assistant Professor of British and Intellectual History at Central Connecticut State University.

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For my parents

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Abbreviations

The following abbreviations are used in the notes:

<i>CEP</i>	<i>Collected Early Poems of Ezra Pound</i> ed. Michael John King (New York: New Directions, 1976).
<i>E&I</i>	W.B. Yeats, <i>Essays and Introductions</i> (New York: Collier Books, 1961).
<i>ELH</i>	<i>English Literary History</i>
<i>Letters I</i>	<i>The Letters of D.H. Lawrence</i> . vol. 1., ed. George J. Zytaruk and James T. Boulton (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1981).
<i>Letters II</i>	<i>The Letters of D.H. Lawrence</i> . vol. 11., ed. George J. Zytaruk and James T. Boulton (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1981).
<i>P/SL</i>	<i>Ezra Pound and Dorothy Shakespear: The Letters, 1909–1914</i> , ed. Omar Pound and A. Walton Litz (New York: New Directions, 1984).
<i>UPI</i>	W.B. Yeats, <i>Uncollected Prose Vol. I</i> , ed. John P. Frayne (New York: Columbia University Press, 1970).
<i>UPII</i>	W.B. Yeats, <i>Uncollected Prose Vol. II</i> , ed. John P. Frayne and Colton Johnson (New York: Columbia University Press, 1976).