

TWENTIETH-CENTURY LITERATURE AND THE AFTERMATH OF WAR

Students of twentieth-century literature are familiar with narratives that associate devastating wars with conceptual, societal, and aesthetic upheavals. What these accounts overlook, however, is a body of psychologically attuned modern writing that was less interested in this shattering of faith and form than in those counterfactual modes of resistance deployed by individuals and nations in response to mass violence and profound change. *Twentieth-Century Literature and the Aftermath of War* is an innovative study of the attention paid to such reparative, stabilising impulses in post-war writings from across the last century. Focusing on works by Henry James, Elizabeth Bowen, and Kazuo Ishiguro as case studies, it argues that to fully understand the relationship between modern warfare and literary art, we must learn to engage with texts whose modernity lies in their acknowledgement of the draw felt towards, and contested ethics of, consolatory counterfactuals.

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For my parents

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[W]ar's not just only war; it's years out of people's lives that they've never had before and won't have again.

Elizabeth Bowen, 'Mysterious Kôr' (1944)

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Abbreviations

<i>AF</i>	Kazuo Ishiguro, <i>An Artist of the Floating World</i> (London: Faber & Faber, 2001)
<i>Aut</i>	Henry James, <i>Autobiographies</i> , ed. Philip Horne (New York: Library of America, 2016)
<i>BCSW</i>	Elizabeth Bowen, <i>Bowen's Court & Seven Winters</i> (London: Vintage, 1999)
<i>CN</i>	<i>The Complete Notebooks of Henry James</i> , ed. Leon Edel and Lyall H. Powers (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1987)
<i>CS</i>	<i>The Collected Stories of Elizabeth Bowen</i> (London: Vintage, 1999)
<i>EL</i>	Henry James, <i>Literary Criticism: Essays on Literature, American Writers, English Writers</i> , ed. Leon Edel, vol. 1 (New York: Library of America, 1984)
<i>FW</i>	Henry James, <i>Literary Criticism: French Writers, Other European Writers, The Prefaces to the New York Edition</i> , ed. Leon Edel, vol. 2 (New York: Library of America, 1984)
<i>H</i>	Elizabeth Bowen, <i>The Hotel</i> (London: Vintage, 2003)
<i>HD</i>	Elizabeth Bowen, <i>The Heat of the Day</i> (London: Vintage, 1998)
<i>HJCS</i>	Henry James, <i>Complete Stories 1898–1910</i> , ed. Denis Donoghue (New York: Library of America, 1996)
<i>HJLII</i>	<i>The Letters of Henry James</i> , ed. Percy Lubbock, vol. 2 (New York: Scribner's, 1920)
<i>HJLIV</i>	<i>Henry James Letters</i> , ed. Leon Edel, vol. 4 (Cambridge, MA: The Belknap Press, 1984)
<i>MT</i>	<i>The Mulberry Tree: Writings of Elizabeth Bowen</i> , ed. Hermione Lee (London: Vintage, 1999)
<i>NLMG</i>	Kazuo Ishiguro, <i>Never Let Me Go</i> (London: Faber & Faber, 2006)

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<i>RH</i>	Henry James, <i>Roderick Hudson</i> , rev. edn, 3 vols. (London: Macmillan & Co., 1879)
<i>RS</i>	Rebecca West, <i>The Return of the Soldier</i> (London: Virago, 2010)
<i>RWHJ</i>	Rebecca West, <i>Henry James</i> (New York: Henry Holt & Company, 1916)
<i>SP</i>	Henry James, <i>The Sense of the Past</i> (London: Collins, 1917)
<i>TY</i>	Vera Brittain, <i>Testament of Youth</i> (London: Virago, 1978)
<i>WL</i>	Elizabeth Bowen, <i>A World of Love</i> (London: Vintage, 1999)