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978-1-107-02031-3 - Geopolitics and the Anglophone Novel, 1890–2011

John Marx

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## GEOPOLITICS AND THE ANGLOPHONE NOVEL, 1890–2011

Literary fiction is a powerful cultural tool for criticizing governments and for imagining how better governance and better states would work. Combining political theory with strong readings of a vast range of novels, John Marx shows that fiction over the long twentieth century often envisioned good government not in utopian but in pragmatic terms. Early twentieth-century novels by Joseph Conrad, E. M. Forster, and Rabindranath Tagore helped forecast world government after European imperialism. Twenty-first-century novelists such as Monica Ali, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Michael Ondaatje, and Amitav Ghosh have inherited that legacy and continue to criticize existing policies in order to formulate best practices on a global scale. Marx shows how literature can make an important contribution to political and social sciences by creating a space to imagine and experiment with social organization.

JOHN MARX is Associate Professor of English at the University of California, Davis. He is the author of *The Modernist Novel and the Decline of Empire* (Cambridge, 2005).

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