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978-1-107-08526-8 - American Writers and the Approach of World War II, 1935–1941: A Literary History

Ichiro Takayoshi

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AMERICAN WRITERS AND THE APPROACH OF WORLD WAR II, 1935–1941

Ichiro Takayoshi's *American Writers and the Approach of World War II, 1935–1941: A Literary History* argues that the approach of World War II transformed American literary culture. From the mid-1930s to America's entry into World War II in 1941, preeminent writers and intellectuals responded to the turn of the public's attention from the economic depression at home to the menace of dictatorships abroad by producing novels, short stories, plays, poems, and cultural criticism in which they prophesied the coming of a second world war and explored how America could prepare for it. Their competing answers left a rich legacy of idioms, symbols, and standard arguments that were destined to license America's promotion of its values and interests around the world for the rest of the twentieth century. Ambitious in scope and addressing an enormous range of writers, thinkers, and artists, this book is the first to establish the outlines of American letters during this pivotal period.

ICHIRO TAKAYOSHI is Associate Professor of English at Tufts University. His articles on modern U.S. literature have appeared in academic journals such as *Post45* and *Representations*. Takayoshi has also translated into Japanese the works of Don DeLillo, David Mitchell, and Richard Powers.

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Only the prophecies are true. The present is an opportunity to repent.

Wallace Stevens, “The Noble Rider and the Sound of Words” (1941)

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Acknowledgments

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