

## MODERNISM, EMPIRE, WORLD LITERATURE

After World War I, American, Irish and then Caribbean writers boldly remade the world literary system long dominated by Paris and London. Responding to literary renaissances and social upheavals in their own countries and to the decline of war-devastated Europe, émigré and domestic-based writers produced dazzling new works that challenged London's or Paris's authority to fix and determine literary value. In so doing, they propounded new conceptions of aesthetic accomplishment that were later codified as 'modernism'. However, after World War II, an assertive American literary establishment repurposed literary modernism to boost the cultural prestige of the United States in the Cold War and to contest Soviet conceptions of 'world literature'. Here, in accomplished readings of major works and essays by Henry James, Ezra Pound, W. B. Yeats, T. S. Eliot, James Joyce, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Eugene O'Neill and Derek Walcott, Joe Cleary situates Anglophone modernism in terms of the rise and fall of European and American empires, changing world literary systems, and disputed histories of 'world literature'.

JOE CLEARY is Professor of English at Yale University. His earlier books include *Literature, Partition and the Nation-State: Culture and Conflict in Ireland, Israel and Palestine* (2001) and *Outrageous Fortune: Capital and Culture in Modern Ireland* (2007). He is also the editor of *The Cambridge Companion to Irish Modernism* (2014) and co-editor of *The Cambridge Companion to Modern Irish Culture* (2005).

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JOE CLEARY

*Yale University*



CAMBRIDGE  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press  
 978-1-108-49235-5 — Modernism, Empire, World Literature  
 Joe Cleary  
 Frontmatter  
[More Information](#)

**CAMBRIDGE**  
 UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom  
 One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA  
 477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia  
 314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi – 110025, India  
 79 Anson Road, #06–04/06, Singapore 079906

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.  
 It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of  
 education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org  
 Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108492355  
 DOI: 10.1017/9781108698146

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First published 2021

Printed in the United Kingdom by TJ Books Limited, Padstow Cornwall  
*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.*

*Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data*

NAMES: Cleary, Joe (Joseph N.), author.

TITLE: Modernism, empire, world literature / Joe Cleary.

DESCRIPTION: Cambridge, United Kingdom : Cambridge University Press, 2021. |  
 Includes bibliographical references and index.

IDENTIFIERS: LCCN 2020054408 (print) | LCCN 2020054409 (ebook) | ISBN 9781108492355  
 (hardback) | ISBN 9781108729277 (paperback) | ISBN 9781108698146 (epub)

SUBJECTS: LCSH: Literature, Modern—20th century—History and criticism. | American  
 literature—20th century—History and criticism. | English literature—20th century—History  
 and criticism. | English literature—Irish authors—History and criticism. |  
 Modernism (Literature)—United States. | Modernism (Literature)—Ireland.

CLASSIFICATION: LCC PN771 .C46 2021 (print) | LCC PN771 (ebook) | DDC 809/.9112—DC23  
 LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2020054408>

LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2020054409>

ISBN 978-1-108-49235-5 Hardback

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Cambridge University Press  
978-1-108-49235-5 — Modernism, Empire, World Literature  
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*For Conor*

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## *Acknowledgements*

Books are written against the odds and take a terrific toll in time. This one was written in Ireland and the United States and has survived life's vicissitudes thanks to many people's support.

Ray Ryan, Senior Commissioning Editor at Cambridge University Press, gave the project matchless support from start to finish. Edgar Mendez, Senior Editorial Assistant at the press, offered kindly assistance. Special thanks also to the copyeditor, Beth Morel, and to Sharon McCann at Cambridge University Press. Three initially anonymous Cambridge readers of two early chapters returned thoughtfully encouraging responses. One of them, Jed Esty, has become a valued friend and colleague in transatlantic modernist studies. Ato Quayson and Eric Falci each offered telling responses to later sections of the work. Seamus Deane, Emer Nolan and Luke Gibbons commented on and significantly improved some draft chapters.

My understanding of modernism, empire and world literature owes too much to too many people to acknowledge here. Some will find their works listed in chapter endnotes. For present purposes, I must mention especially Steph Newell, Caz Phillips, Michael Denning, David Quint, Lanny Hammer, Katie Trumpener, Ardis Butterfield, Dudley Andrew, Katerina Clark, Günter Leypoldt, Marc Robinson, Michael Warner, Joe North, Jill Campbell, John Peters and Jill Richards, all of whom in conversations at Yale deepen my sense of literature. Longtime Irish colleagues, including David Lloyd, Barry McCrea, Stephen Rea, Sinéad Kennedy, Michael Cronin, Catherine Morris, Liam Lanigan, Mark Quigley, Tony Crowley, Ronán McDonald, Lionel Pilkington, Heather Laird, Kevin Honan, Bridget English, Barra Ó Seaghdha, Ronan Sheehan and Kevin Whelan, have shared passions for Irish politics and modernist letters. Friends in the Red Stripe Collective (Maynooth University) and the Left Literary Studies group (Yale University) have afforded solidarity and intellectual stimulation. So have people associated with *boundary 2*, especially Paul Bové, Meg

*Acknowledgements*

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Havran, Bruce Robbins and Aamir Mufti. The students who took my modernist seminars at Yale were a formidable crew, among whom special mention must go to Jordan Brower, Julia Chan, Margaret Deli, Seo Hee Im, Edward King, Lukas Moe and Chris McGowan. Julia Chan offered invaluable assistance with the final copyediting process. Whenever the heart sang or sank, I found resource in the company of David and Jane Kastan and Eddie Higgins & Co. in Trinity Bar in New Haven. Margaret Spillane and Bruce Shapiro have made New Haven brighter and more convivial in dark times. Colleen Lye and David Pickell have remained steadfast friends across time and continents. So too have Dermot Dix and Chandana Mathur.

Erica Sayers, Jane Bordiere, Jamie Morris, Sarah Harford and Sue Penney are the pillars on which the Yale English department rests and have been pillars to me too. The Yale librarians are unsurpassable. Wonderful lectures offered at the Notre Dame Irish Seminar in Dublin by Edward Said, Perry Anderson, Giovanni Arrighi, Jacqueline Rose, James Chandler, Paul Bové, Jed Esty, Seamus Deane, Emer Nolan, David Lloyd, Luke Gibbons and many others leave traces here somewhere.

First and last, I thank my mother, brothers and sisters for their ongoing support and dedicate the book to my son, Conor, the nonpareil. Up the Reds!