

Contents

Preface	ix
Acknowledgments	xv
Introduction	1
1 Toward the "Great American Novel": Romance and Romanticism in the Age of Realism	9
2 Of Realism and Reality: Definitions and Contexts	25
3 Dramas of the Broken Teacup: American "Quiet" Realism	41
4 The Nature of Naturalism: Definitions and Backgrounds	55
5 Implacable Nature, Household Tragedy, and Epic Romance	73
6 Frank Norris: The Beast Within	91
7 The Rocking Horse Winners: Theodore Dreiser and Urban Naturalism	109
8 Subjective Realism: Stephen Crane's Impressionist Fictions	125
9 Impressions of War: The Interior Battlefield	141
10 Sense and Sensibility: Sentimental Domesticity and "New Woman's Fiction"	157
11 Domestic Feminism: The Problematic Louisa May Alcott	179
12 "All the Happy Endings": Marriage, Insanity, and Suicide	195
13 Vulgarians at the Gate: Edith Wharton and the Collapse of Gentility	215
14 Tea-Table as Jungle: Henry James and "The Psychopathology of Everyday Life"	235
15 Economies of Pain: W. D. Howells	261
16 The "Gilded Age": Genteel Critics and Militant Muckrakers	283

Contents

17	What Is An American? Regionalism and Race	299
18	The Territory Ahead: Emerging African American Voices	323
19	The “Dream of a Republic”: War, Reconstruction, and Future History	343
20	At the Modernist Margin: Mark Twain	367
	Bibliographical Resources	387
	Index	421