

# Contents

Introduction    i

## Part I. Slavery, Revolution, Renaissance

1. Signs of Power: Nat Turner and Frederick Douglass    27  
    *San Domingo and Its Patriots*    31  
    *Nat Turner, Thomas Gray, and the Phenomenology of Slavery*    36  
    *Ibo Warriors*    56  
    *Blackhead Signpost: Prophecy and Terror*    67  
    *Frederick Douglass's Revisions*    83  
    *Iron Sentences: Paternity, Literacy, Liberty*    93  
    *Broken Fetters: The Right of Revolution*    112
2. Melville, Delany, and New World Slavery    135  
    *Memory, Authority, and the Shadowy Tableau*    139  
    *The Play of the Barber*    155  
    *Ashantee Conjurors: Africanisms and Africanization*    163  
    *The Law of Nature or the Hive of Subtlety*    175  
    *Caribbean Empires*    182  
    *"It Is Wrote in Jeremiah": American Maroons*    189  
    *Sugar, Conspiracy, and the Ladder*    199  
    *El Día de los Reyes*    210

## Part II. The Color Line

3. Mark Twain and Homer Plessy 225  
*The Second Slavery* 228  
*The Badge of Servitude: Homer Plessy and the Rise of Segregation* 233  
*Blaspheming Colors, Extraordinary Twins* 249  
*A Whisper to the Reader* 263
4. Charles Chesnutt's Cakewalk 271  
*The Origin of the Cakewalk* 276  
*Word Shadows and Alternating Sounds:*  
*Folklore, Dialect, and Vernacular* 294  
*Uncle Remus, Uncle Julius, and the New Negro* 323  
*"De Ole Times," Slave Culture, and Africa* 347  
*Talking Bones: Conjure and Narrative* 359  
*White Weeds: The Pathology of the Color Line* 392  
*Fusion: The Marrow of Tradition* 406  
*A Great Black Figure and a Doll* 435

## Part III. W. E. B. Du Bois: African America and the Kingdom of Culture

5. Swing Low: *The Souls of Black Folk* 457  
*In the Kingdom of Culture* 459  
*"This Wonderful Music of Bondage"* 467  
*Bright Sparkles: Music and Text* 490  
*Black and Unknown Bards: A Theory of the Sorrow Songs* 525

6. The Spell of Africa	540
<i>The Color Line Belts the World</i>	546
<i>"Ethiopia Shall Stretch Forth Her Hands":</i> <i>Toward Pan-Africanism</i>	551
<i>Africa: The Hidden Self and the Pageant of Nationalism</i>	563
<i>The Burden of Black Women</i>	581
<i>The Black Christ and Other Prophets</i>	592
Notes	627
Acknowledgments	693
Index	695