

# Contents

Acknowledgements ix

Introduction: Cultural History of Literature 1

1 A European German Literature 4

Enlightenment identities 5

The virtue of sexuality 11

The German idea of literature 15

A German Shakespeare 18

Greece comes to Germany 22

Casualties of Idealism 28

Infinity for all 32

The consolation of philosophy 34

Irony 37

Spilt religion 39

What Germans really read 42

Spirit in the age of modern literature 46

2 Poetry and Politics 48

The classical inheritance in the modern world 48

German realism 53

An affirmative literature 60

The German literature myth and what Germans really read 65

The *Novelle* 68

Problematic affirmative literature 70

Overture to the future 76

3 Imperial Modernity 82

The revolution that never was 82

The social question 85

The German claim to art	86
Literature on the ground	88
The world of publicity	95
The marketing of exclusivity	97
German art meets advertising	99
Publicity as a creative force	102
Language becomes self-conscious	103
Literature and technology	110
 4 The Literature of Negation	 114
The Great War	114
Fort/Dada	116
The broken subject	120
Fascist negation	125
Negation in the dialectic	128
Negation and the Holocaust	136
The lyric of negation	142
 5 The Fate of Affirmative Literature	 149
The Third Reich	149
The German Democratic Republic	160
 6 Literature in Democratic Capitalism	 179
From <i>Erlebnis</i> to <i>Erfahrung</i>	180
Old literature adapts to the new world	193
Testimony, market, society	199
Exile	203
The economic miracle	207
Medial hybridity	217
 Conclusion: The End of the Age	 229
 References	 232
 Index	 239