

Mailer's America

Joseph Wenke

Contents

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Acknowledgments | ix |
| Introduction | 1 |
| <i>Chapter 1</i> The Threat of Totalitarianism | 8 |
| <i>Chapter 2</i> <i>The Naked and the Dead:</i> Beyond Liberalism; The Politics of Risk | 24 |
| <i>Chapter 3</i> <i>Barbary Shore:</i> Bureaucracy and Nightmare | 42 |
| <i>Chapter 4</i> <i>The Deer Park:</i> The Cost of Cowardice | 51 |
| <i>Chapter 5</i> “The White Negro”: Seminal Mailer | 69 |
| <i>Chapter 6</i> <i>An American Dream:</i> Dread, Magic, God, and the Devil | 92 |
| <i>Chapter 7</i> <i>Why Are We in Vietnam?:</i> The Madness of America | 116 |
| <i>Chapter 8</i> <i>The Armies of the Night:</i> Mailer as Participant | 139 |

viii **Contents**

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| <i>Chapter 9</i> | Mailer's Nonfiction (1968–1972): The View of the Outsider | 164 |
| <i>Chapter 10</i> | From <i>Marilyn</i> to <i>The Executioner's Song</i> : Charisma and Estrangement | 194 |
| <i>Chapter 11</i> | Mailer in the 1980s: Mythic Imagination and Existential Mystery | 217 |
| | Conclusion | 237 |
| | Notes | 241 |
| | Bibliography | 249 |
| | Index | 253 |