Contents

List of illustrations  page ix
Sources and acknowledgements  ix
Preface  xi

1 Virginia and the arguments for the South  1
  Remembering the future: the Virginia pamphleteers  1
  Dreams of exile: the first families of colonial Virginia  9
  From revolution to reaction: Thomas Jefferson, John
    Taylor of Caroline, and John Randolph of Roanoke  18

2 Holding the line in the Old South  31
  Versions of home: John Calhoun and the
    Constitutionalists  31
  To speak of Arcadia: William Gilmore Simms and some
    plantation novelists  45
  Chaining the rough beast: the Southwestern humorists  62

3 The New South, the lost cause, and the recovered dream  75
  To vindicate the people: some versions of the Civil War  75
  Looking before and after: writers in the New South  88
  A Southern autobiography: Mark Twain  102

4 A climate of fear: the South between the wars and the
  Nashville Agrarians  122
  To live at the centre: Southern writers and social crisis  122
  Shouting across immense voids: approaches to the
    Agrarian argument  125
  Speech and silence: I'll Take My Stand and the defence of
    the South  142

5 Out of the South: the fiction of William Faulkner  165
Contents

6 The Southerner as amphibian: the region since the war 217
   A house divided against itself: an approach to recent
   Southern culture and writing 217
   On the necessity of losing battles: Eudora Welty 237
   Notes for a novel about the end of the South: Walker
   Percy 251

Postscript 271
Notes 289
Index 323