

In the aftermath of the September 11 terror attacks, the political situation in both the United States and abroad has often been described as a “state of exception”: an emergency situation in which the normal rule of law is suspended. In such a situation, the need for good decisions is felt ever more strongly. This book investigates the aesthetics, ethics, and politics of decisions represented in novels published around 9/11: Martel’s *Life of Pi*, Eugenides’ *Middlesex*, Coetzee’s *Disgrace*, and Sebald’s *Austerlitz*.