Contents

	Foreword by Lance St. John Butler Preface	ix xi
	PART I THE NATURE OF HARDY'S THOUGHT	
	Was Hardy a Philosopher? The Human Predicament	3 17
	PART II THE ESTABLISHMENT OF HARMONY: HARDY'S ETHICAL RESOLUTION OF THE METAPHYSICAL ABSURD	
3	Metaphysical Ethics and the Non-Theistic Mystical Tendency	27 30
4	Three Groups of Characters	33
(5	The Return of the Native	63
6	The Mayor of Casterbridge	71
	Far from the Madding Crowd	
8	Hardy's Position vis-à-vis Idealism, Naturalism and Existentialism	76
	Daistentiansin	70
X	PART III DELIVERANCE FROM PASSION: HARDY'S PHILOSOPHY OF SEX, LOVE AND MARRIAGE	
9	The Place of Sex in Hardy's Ethics	87
0	Hardy's Criticism of the Platonic Mysticism of Beauty	89
1	The Sublimation of Passion	93
2	Schopenhauer and Hardy: Sex, Love and Marriage	100
3	Hardy's View of Guilt in Sex	107
4	The Evils of Bad Marriage and Free Love in Jude the	
	Obscure	112

viii Contents

PART IV THE ANGUISH OF THE SOCIAL ABSURD: HARDY'S SECULAR ETHICS OF HUMAN RESPONSIBILITY

15	Hardy's Humanism	
16	Hardy vis-à-vis J.S. Mill in The Hand of Ethelberta	137
17	Some Streams of Moral Philosophy and the Existential	141
	Character of Hardy's Social Ethics in Tess of the	
	d'Urbervilles	150
18	Social Optimism and Affirmative Revolt in Jude the	
	Obscure	166
19	Hardy and Camus: a Brief Comparative Study of their	
	Moral Philosophies	170
	Concluding Note	1 7 9
	Notes	190
	Select Bibliography	205
	Index	213