## Contents

	Pre	eface ix	
	Ac	knowledgments xi	
PAR	ТС	ONE: Traditions 1	
	1	Tradition and History 5	
		Modernism 5 Barbarism 18	
	2	Tradition on the Left 39	
		Van Wyck Brooks 40 Floyd Dell, Max Eastman, and the Masses The Liberator 59 New Masses 70	46
PAR	тт	TWO: WHO OWNS AMERICA? 87	
	3	Lost Causes 93	
		Whistling Dixie 93 Punks and Pioneers 112	
	4	Field Full of Folk 130	
		Proletarian Literature in the United States The People Talk 154	134
	5	Tales from the Ghetto 182	
		Growing Up in New York 184 Coming of Age in Chicago 206	

Contents viii

PART 1	THREE: SIX LIVES 227		
6	Itzok Granich and Michael (	Gold	231
7	Nathan Weinstein and		
	Nathanael West 249		
8	Black Boy and Native Son	270	

Conclusion 288

Notes 291 Index 323