

# Contents

Introduction	xi
Political Theatre: Definition and Usage	xii
Comparing Political Theatre with Traditional Theatre	xv
Structuring Political Theatre	xvi
The Political Theatre Character	xviii
Political Theatre Imagery	xx
The Conjunction of Historic and Dramatic Themes	xxi
1. The Great Depression—Social Themes in the Theatrical Mainstream	1
<i>Both Your Houses</i>	4
Labor and the Left	9
<i>Waiting for Lefty</i>	12
The WPA and the FTP	14
<i>One-Third of a Nation</i>	18
American Myth, Dramatic Manifestation	22

2.	World War II—Theatrical Themes from Antiwar to Prowar to Postwar	29
	The Isolationist Reaction to the Great War	30
	The Antiwar Movement of the 1930s	31
	American Antiwar Drama in the 1930s	32
	<i>Johnny Johnson</i>	36
	From Isolationism to Internationalism	41
	Neutrality and the 1930s	41
	The Spanish Civil War	44
	The Curtain Rises on Interventionism	47
	<i>Watch on the Rhine</i>	49
	War and the Revelations of Caste	53
	<i>Deep Are the Roots</i>	58
	Caste Lists in the Postwar Theatre	62
3.	The Cold War—Onstage Sublimated Protest and the Marx of Satan	67
	The Cold War as Holy War	70
	The (Iron) Curtain Rises	73
	<i>Darkness at Noon</i>	74
	Casualties on the Home Front	77
	Hidden Faces of 1952	81
	<i>The Crucible</i>	83
	Theatre of Fact	87
	<i>In the Matter of J. Robert Oppenheimer</i>	88
4.	Vietnam—Theatre as a Mirror to National Institutions	99
	Vietnam: Early Stages	103
	<i>China Gate</i>	105

	America and the Vietnam Experience	108
	Vietnam: The Critics' Corner	116
	<i>The Trial of the Catonsville Nine</i>	119
	Bringing the War Back Home	124
	Vietnam: The Endless Epilogue	128
	<i>Sticks and Bones</i>	129
5.	Civil Rights—A Caste of Millions Lights Up a Dark Theatre	139
	Negro History Plays: Negative Images of White America	143
	<i>In White America</i>	146
	The Rise of Black Power	150
	Black Power, Black Arts	155
	<i>The Gentleman Caller</i>	156
	<i>The Death of Malcolm X</i>	158
	Postrevolutionary Black America	162
	The Postrevolutionary Aesthetic Blues	165
	<i>The Mighty Gents</i>	167
6.	Civil Rights Theatre Sequel I—Race	177
	The Chicano Movement	178
	<i>Las Dos Caras del Patroncito</i>	183
	The Politics of Culture	186
	Native Americans	190
	<i>Black Elk Speaks</i>	196
	Center Stage: Center of the Universe	201
7.	Civil Rights Theatre Sequel II—Gender	211

<i>Getting Out</i>	219
Biological Determinism versus Personal Control	227
Gay Liberation	232
From the Closet to the Footlights	239
A Plague on Both Your Houses	242
<i>As Is</i>	244
8. Looking Ahead: Political Themes in the American Drama of the 1990s	253
Appendix A: Milestones in American Political Drama since the 1930s	261
Appendix B: Annotated Bibliography of Representative Films and Videotapes	267
Bibliography	275
Index	287