# Seers and Judges

American Literature as Political Philosophy

> Christine Dunn Henderson

# **Seers And Judges American Literature As Political Philosophy**

**Elizabeth Amato** 

#### **Seers And Judges American Literature As Political Philosophy:**

**Seers and Judges** Christine Dunn Henderson, 2002-01-01 Alexis de Tocqueville asserted that America had no truly great literature and that American writers merely mimicked the British and European traditions of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries This new edited collection masterfully refutes Tocqueville's monocultural myopia and reveals the distinctive role American poetry and prose have played in reflecting and passing judgment upon the core values of American democracy The essays profiling the work of Mark Twain F Scott Fitzgerald John Updike Edith Wharton Walt Whitman Henry James Willa Cather Walker Percy and Tom Wolfe reveal how America's greatest writers have acted as society's most ardent cheerleaders and its most penetrating critics Christine Dunn Henderson's exciting new work offers literature as a portal through which to view the philosophical principles that animate America's political order and the mores which either reinforce or undermine The Political Thought of America's Founding Feminists Lisa Pace Vetter, 2017-07-11 Recovering the powerful and influential contributions of women from the nation's formative years The Political Thought of America's Founding Feminists traces the significance of Frances Wright Harriet Martineau Angelina and Sarah Grimk Lucretia Mott Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Sojourner Truth in shaping American political thinking These women understood the relationship between sexism racism and economic inequality yet they are virtually unknown in American political thought because they are considered activists not theorists. Their efforts to expand the reach of America's founding ideals laid the groundwork not only for women's suffrage and the abolition of slavery but for the broader expansion of civil political and human rights that would characterize much of the twentieth century and continues to unfold today Drawing on a careful reading of speeches letters and other archival sources Lisa Pace Vetter shows the ways in which the early women s rights movement and abolitionism were central to the development of American political thought The Political Thought of America's Founding Feminists demonstrates that early American political thought is incomplete without attention to these important female thinkers and that an understanding of early American women's movements is incomplete without considering its profound impact on political thought A complex and thoughtful guide to the indispensable role of women in shaping the American way of life The Political Thought of America's Founding Feminists is essential for a comprehensive understanding of the history of American Leo Strauss and His Legacy John Albert Murley, 2005-01-01 With over 10 000 entries identifying work of political thought hundreds of Strauss's students and their students students this bibliography is the most indeed the only comprehensive quide to published writing in the tradition of Leo Strauss Murley includes Strauss s own complete bibliography and that of one of his most revered students George Anastaplo The Cambridge Companion to Democracy in America Richard Boyd, 2022-03-24 This collection of essays is an invaluable companion for understanding the composition reception and contemporary legacy of Alexis de Tocqueville's classic work Democracy in America Chapters by political theorists intellectual historians economists political scientists and community organizers explore the major intellectual influences on Tocqueville s

thought the book s reception in its own day and by subsequent political thinkers and its enduring relevance for some of today s most pressing issues Chapters tackle Tocqueville s insights into liberal democracy civil society and civic engagement social reform religion and politics free markets constitutional interpretation the history of slavery and race relations gender literature and foreign policy The many ways in which Tocqueville's ideas have been taken up sometimes at cross purposes by subsequent thinkers and political actors around the world are also examined This volume demonstrates the enduring global significance of one of the most perceptive accounts ever written about American democracy and the future prospects for self Politics, Literature, and Film in Conversation Matthew D. Dinan, Paul E. Kirkland, Denise Schaeffer, Natalie Taylor, 2021-05-04 This volume presents a series of essays in honor of noted scholar of political theory Mary P Nichols The essays reflect Nichols pathbreaking work in ancient Greek political thought as well as her influential treatments of works of literature and film in conversation with political theory Part I Conversations Concerning Love and Friendship features essays about the philosophical meaning of human connection and affection Part II Conversations Between Politics and Poetry looks at the political significance of art and the ways in which political rule can be understood to be artistic or poetic Part III Conversations from Tragedy to Comedy considers whether the human need for community is something to be lamented or celebrated Broad in scope and interdisciplinary in approach the essays in this volume address authors such as Plato Aristotle Shakespeare Machiavelli Mary Wollstonecraft G W F Hegel Jane Austen Henry James William Faulkner Albert Camus J R R Tolkien and Aleksander Solzhenitsyn as well as the films of Woody Allen and Whit Stillman The Pursuit of Happiness and the American Regime Elizabeth Amato, 2018-02-28 The Declaration of Independence claims that individuals need liberty to pursue happiness but provides little guidance on the what of happiness Happiness studies and liberal theory are incomplete guides Happiness studies offer insights into what makes people happy but happiness policy risks becoming doctrinaire Liberal theory is better on personal liberty but weak on the what of happiness My argument is that American novelists are surer guides on the pursuit of happiness Treated as political thinkers my book offers a close reading of four American novelists Tom Wolfe Walker Percy Edith Wharton and Nathaniel Hawthorne and their critique of the pursuit of happiness With a critical and friendly eye they present the shortcomings of pursuing happiness in a liberal nation but also present alternatives and correctives possible in America Our novelists point us toward each other in friendship as our greatest Handbook of the American Short Story Erik Redling, Oliver Scheiding, 2022-01-19 resource to guide us towards happiness The American short story has always been characterized by exciting aesthetic innovations and an immense range of topics This handbook offers students and researchers a comprehensive introduction to the multifaceted genre with a special focus on recent developments due to the rise of new media Part I provides systematic overviews of significant contexts ranging from historical political backgrounds short story theories developed by writers print and digital culture to current theoretical approaches and canon formation Part II consists of 35 paired readings of representative short stories by eminent authors

charting major steps in the evolution of the American short story from its beginnings as an art form in the early nineteenth century up to the digital age The handbook examines historically methodologically and theoretically the coming together of the enduring narrative practice of compression and concision in American literature It offers fresh and original readings relevant to studying the American short story and shows how the genre performs American culture Twentieth-Century Southern Literature Tara Powell, 2012-01-09 Never in its long history has the South provided an entirely comfortable home for the intellectual In this thought provoking contribution to the field of southern studies Tara Powell considers the evolving ways that major post World War II southern writers have portrayed intellectuals from Flannery O Connor's ironic view of interleckchuls to Gail Godwin's southerners striving to feel at home in the academic world Although Walker Percy like his fellow Catholic writer O Connor explicitly rejected the intellectual label for himself he nonetheless introduced the modern novel of ideas to southern letters Powell shows by placing sympathetic non caricatured intellectuals at the center of his influential works North Carolinians Doris Betts and her student Tim McLaurin made their living teaching literature and creative writing in academia and Betts s fiction often includes dislocated academics while McLaurin s superb memoirs often funny frequently point up the limitations of the mind as opposed to the heart and the spirit Examining works by Ernest Gaines Alice Walker and Randall Kenan Powell traces the evolution of the black American literacy narrative from a stress on the post Emancipation conviction which saw formal education as an essential means of resisting oppression to the growing suspicion in the post civil rights era of literacy acts that may estrange educated blacks from the larger black community Powell concludes with Godwin who embraces university life in her fiction as she explores what it means to be a southern female intellectual in the modern world a world in which all those markers inscribe isolation Past, Reconstructing the Nation Ben Railton, 2007-09-30 In this study of Gilded Age literature and culture Ben Railton proposes that in the years after Reconstruction America's identity was often connected through distinct and competing conceptions of the nation's history Concerned with key social questions such as race Native Americans women and the South Contesting the Past Reconstructing the Nation provided close readings of a number of texts for the ways they highlight these issues This book examines established classics newer additions to the canon largely forgotten best sellers recovery gems and autobiographical works by Douglass and Truth poems by Harper and Piatt and short stories by Woolson and Cooke These readings contribute to ongoing conversations over historical literature s definition and value and a greater understanding of not only American society in the Gilded Age but also debates on our shared but contested history that remain very much alive in the present From publisher's description America Through European Eyes Aurelian Cr iu u, Jeffrey C. Isaac, 2009 A collection of essays that discuss representative eighteenth and nineteenth century French and English views of American democracy and society and offer a critical assessment of various narrative constructions of American life society and culture Provided by publisher

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