



### The Humanist Critic

Lionel Trilling and Edward Said

By Daniel Rosenberg Nutters

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Explores the humanist criticism of Lionel Trilling and Edward Said through a critical analysis of their influences and the changing landscapes of literary studies

*The Humanist Critic* examines the careers of Lionel Trilling and Edward Said in two contexts: on one hand, it focuses on the changing shape of literary criticism as it occurred alongside the advent of critical theory and, on the other hand, it addresses each critic's understanding of the gradual emergence of modernism in the nineteenth-century. Nutters argues that Trilling and Said each drew upon their favorite modern writers to reimagine the role of the humanist tradition at a time when the academic study of literature began to lose faith in humanism and fragment. *The Humanist Critic* thus studies the influence of Matthew Arnold and Thomas Mann on Trilling and the influence of Joseph Conrad and Gerard Manley Hopkins on Said while putting the careers of Trilling and Said in dialogue with structuralist and deconstructive thought. *The Humanist Critic* is ultimately a focused genealogy of literary studies; a study of influence; a critique of current trends in critical culture; and a renewed justification for the humanist vocation.

#### Readership

Academics and literary scholars who specialize in modernism, literary history, critical theory, and nineteenth-century literature.

#### Key selling points

- It is the first study of Trilling and Said.
- It challenges recent academic trends that praise innovations while neglecting to integrate past traditions.
- It recovers neglected aspects of Trilling's and Said's careers while also recovering a neglected critical tradition.
- It focuses on the continuity between literary and critical tradition.

#### About the Author(s) / Editor(s)

Daniel Rosenberg Nutters teaches English at Cheyney University of Pennsylvania.

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