

THE TRANSFORMATION IN AMERICAN LITERATURE IN THE FIRST HALF OF XX CENTURY

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Abstract *This study explores the transformation within American literature throughout the 20th century. By examining key literary works and movements, the research highlights how prominent changes made an influence on American authors and defined the appearance of great literary works and movement.*

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The history of the United States before the Second World War was determined by the following events: victory in the Spanish-American War (1899) and participation in the First World War, industrial revolt: industrialization (the appearance of the tram, Ford factories, the Panama Canal), the final settlement of territories (Alaska and California), the growth of cities, the "Great Depression" of 1929 (the crisis of overproduction), Roosevelt's New Economic Deal, as a result of which the United States becomes the leading world power by the beginning of the Second World War. At the turn of the century, the main social reference point in America was the myth of equal opportunity. We cannot discount the traditional Puritan morality of settlers and the influence of non-traditional sets of ideas (Marxism, Freudianism) and new art (Cubist painting, cinematographic technology).

The beginning of the 20th century in American literature is associated with the fact of the birth of social realistic literature, because this is a much younger literature, which developed at an accelerated pace for 2 centuries. What was in European literature in the mid-19th century, that is, the social-realistic novel (Balzac, Dickens and his company), was not in American literature either at that time or later. Poe, Melville, Hawthorne are American romantics. The literature of America in the 20th century is divided into the following stages: 1) 1900s - the dominance of positivism (A. Comte), strong influence of late romanticism (Whitman). 2) From the late 1910s to the 1930s, American literature addresses the issue of individual mastery, the romantic conflict between culture and civilization is widespread. the time of the formation of American national drama (Eugene O'Neill) 3) 1930s - the lyrical and epic (naturalistic technique and the romantic idea of a new type of individualism) are reconciled. There is a politicization of literature in connection with the economic crisis, civil wars, and the threat of fascism.

The 1930s were marked by a turbulent labor movement. Under the influence of these events, American writers intensified their criticism of the capitalist order. Among them were Thomas Wolfe and John Steinbeck. 4) The period of WWII (late 1930s - until 1945). During WWII, many American writers joined the fight against Hitlerism. Hemingway, Sinclair and others came out with anti-fascist works. 5) The post-war years (after 1945): a) The post-war

period is characterized by the Cold War. This includes the works of Alexander Saxton, Shirley Graham, Lloyd Brown, William Saroyan, William Faulkner. b) The 1950s. In the 1950s, the United States experienced the height of McCarthyism (Senator McCarthy). In literature, cinema, and TV, protective, conformist tendencies are growing stronger (Mickey Spillane, Herman Wouk, Allen Drury). In the 50s, a number of books appeared that were a direct response to the regime of political persecution, to the reactionary activities of Senator McCarthy. Among them are Jay Dice "The Washington Story", Felix Jackson "So Help Me God". c) In post-war American literature, works by the so-called "beatniks" appeared - young Americans, representatives of the post-war broken generation. The beatniks rebel against the ugliness of bourgeois civilization, condemn bourgeois morality. Representatives are Norman Mailer, Son Bellow, James Baldwin. 6) 60s. In the 60s, anti-war sentiments are growing, the fight against aggression in Vietnam is growing. The second half of the 60s is marked by an intensification of the youth movement, many new bright books about American reality appear - Truman Capote, John Updike, Harper Lee. 7) 70-90s of the 20th century (T. Williams, T. Morrison, etc.) Characterizing the literary process in the USA, it should be noted first of all that there was no "fin de siècle" situation (decadent moods, symbolism) in American literature. Realists bring worldwide fame to the American novel. Naturalism has firmly entered American literature of the 20th century.

The philosophy of existentialism had a great influence on American literature of the 1950s-70s. The problem of human alienation formed the basis of the ideology and aesthetics of the so-called "beatniks" generation. In the 1950s, a group of young intellectuals formed in San Francisco, calling themselves the "beat generation" - the beatniks. The beatniks took such phenomena as the post-war depression, the "cold war", and the threat of a nuclear catastrophe to heart. The beatniks recorded the state of alienation of the human personality from the society of their time, and this, naturally, resulted in a form of protest. Representatives of this youth movement made it clear that their American contemporaries were living on the ruins of civilization.

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