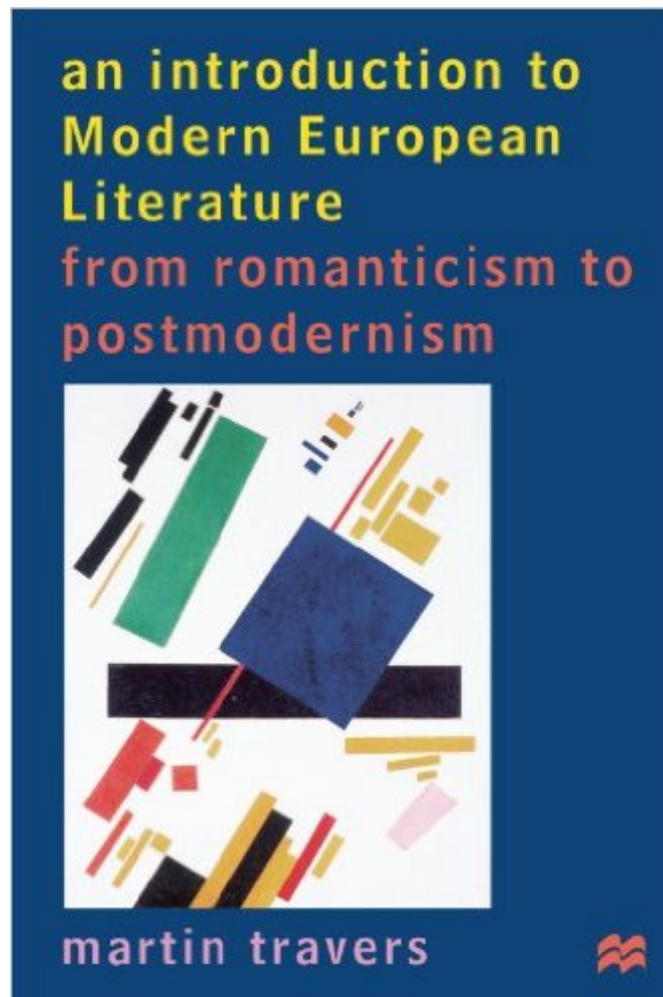


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An Introduction To Modern European Literature: From Romanticism To Postmodernism



Synopsis

Wide-ranging and imaginative, this volume provides an incisive guide to the rich heritage of European literature. The book gives a lively account of major figures and texts as well as previously marginalised writers, assessing their relevance to the broad European tradition and the social, political and intellectual issues which shaped it. Structured around the major literary movements of the period - Romanticism, Realism and Naturalism, Modernism, the Literature of Political Engagement and Postmodernism - the book will be invaluable to all students of modern literature and European cultural history. Each chapter concludes with a detailed chronology of the major literary texts of each movement, covering fiction, drama and poetry. A detailed, annotated bibliography also guides the student through the seminal works of critical scholarship in the field.

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Customer Reviews

.What a help this book was to me! For some time I have been trying to find out what went on in European Literature for the last 150 years. Like many autodidacts I had a brief affair with English Lit at University and have been longing to get back there ever since, and this has kept me looking for a guide like this.. Martin takes on no small scope. He goes right from the first whispers of Romanticism, with the Poems of Ossian, Night Thoughts on Life Death and Immortality, Goethe and Novalis, through the embittered realists, the splendid modernist (how I have struggled with these guys ... you see the symbolists vieing with the Avant Guardists and then how the gems were creamed off into the works of Proust, Eliot and Woolf). Downwards again to the grey dystopias of

Koestler and Huxley and then a burst through the plate glass into our post modern world with the emergence of real people, questioning their motives, doubting silver bullets, and trying to make out lives with meaning: Kundera, Gunter Grass, Philip Larkin. Most of the writers I really wanted to see were there: Kafka, Tolstoy, Zola, Dostoyev .. (you know, him), Oscar W, WH Auden; and many that I now know I want to know: Ballard, Calvino, Camus, Musil, Thomas Mann and Joris Karl Huysmans.. A few things I would have liked were a more compassionate approach to the reader: it reads at times like softened up lecture notes and I like to be enticed by a few less facts. Also while the book gives you the great works of these periods, the criteria for inclusion is historical and literary significance. Aesthetics per se is not enunciated in its own right: books that most people tend to agree are just a damn good read - say like Evelyn Waugh (I'm pretty sure he didn't get a mention) ...

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