

THE SECOND WORLD WAR IN AMERICAN LITERATURE

Yusupova Mehriniso

A student of Chirchik State Pedadogical University

Khamitov Eldor Erkinovich

Super advisor, a teacher of Chirchik Pedagogical University (Uzbekistan)

***Abstract.** This is abstract is crucial for students, teachers, other learners. It helps them to improve their knowledge about the world. The main idea of this article is the influence of The Second World War in America Literature.*

***Keyword:** Literature, society, Second World War*

INTRODUCTION

The realist legacy of the era's fiction reflects the influence of post-war society.

As a result, during this time a new generation of writers emerged, including Tennessee Williams, Arthur Miller, Lillian Hellman, and poet-essayist Robert Penn Warren. These writers "explored the fate of the individual within the family or community and focused on the balance between personal growth and responsibility to the group." (American Prose, 1945–1990: Exploration and Realism). One illustration of how the post-war world influenced American writing is found in the plays of the great genius Arthur Miller. "The work of playwrights revolutionised American theatre in the years immediately following the end of World War II."

FINDINGS

The Second World War had a significant impact on American literature, influencing the themes, styles, and perspectives of many writers during and after

the war. Here are some key aspects of the Second World War in American literature:

◆ **War Experience:** Many American writers who served in the war, such as Norman Mailer and Kurt Vonnegut, drew upon their personal experiences to depict the harsh realities of combat and the psychological toll it took on soldiers. Their works, like Mailer's "The Naked and the Dead" and Vonnegut's "Slaughterhouse-Five," provide vivid and often anti-heroic portrayals of war.

◆ **Home Front and Society:** The war also impacted American society on the home front, and writers like John Steinbeck and Richard Wright explored the social and economic changes brought about by the war. Steinbeck's "The Moon is Down" examines the effects of occupation and resistance, while Wright's "Native Son" explores the racial tensions and inequalities that persisted during wartime.

◆ **Post-War Trauma and Existentialism:** The trauma and disillusionment of the war led to an existentialist strain in American literature. Authors like J.D. Salinger in "The Catcher in the Rye" and Ralph Ellison in "Invisible Man" grappled with themes of alienation, identity, and the search for meaning in a post-war world.

◆ **Holocaust Literature:** The Holocaust, a central event of the Second World War, profoundly influenced American literature. Writers like Elie Wiesel in "Night" and Anne Frank in "The Diary of a Young Girl" provided firsthand accounts of the Holocaust, shedding light on the horrors and atrocities committed during the war.

◆ **Historical Fiction and Reflections:** Many American writers turned to historical fiction to explore the war. Works like Joseph Heller's "Catch-22" and Herman Wouk's "The Caine Mutiny" satirize the bureaucracy and absurdity of war, while James Jones' "From Here to Eternity" and Thomas Pynchon's "Gravity's Rainbow" offer sweeping and complex narratives set during the war.

◆ The Second World War in American literature encompasses a wide range of themes, perspectives, and genres. It reflects the impact of the war on

individuals, society, and the human condition, offering insights into the complexities and consequences of one of the most significant events of the 20th century.

CONCLUSION

The term "war literature," as Jeffrey Walsh suggests, may seem too restrictive, implying as it does a genre of writing entirely separate from that done in a "peacetime," whereas in reality there is often an overlap between the two.

Indeed, the Second World War had a profound and overwhelming impact on American literature. The war influenced the themes, styles, and perspectives of many writers, shaping the literary landscape for years to come.

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