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Salem Press Announces a New Addition to the Critical Insights Series; *Critical Insights: Joseph Conrad*

Edited by Jeremiah J. Garsha, postgraduate researcher in the Faculty of History at the University of Cambridge, this collection's purpose is to explore Joseph Conrad and his writings from a new perspective. It is written in a way that a reader with zero experience or understanding of Conrad's bibliography can easily pick up this volume and understand the core concepts and connections. No previous knowledge of Conrad's personal history or any of his essays, novellas, and novels is required. Yet, critically, this book is also framed in a way that a dedicated Conradian expert will find it well represents the subject matter, while also offering new insight to that well-versed reader. The greatest strength of this title is in its global reach of subject matter, done through an international collaboration of outstanding authors.

This text brings together established academics with early career researchers who undoubtedly be the very people who push disciplines in new, uncharted directions. The contributors' diverse backgrounds and scholarly interests allow for readings into Conrad's work and life in ways that are entirely novel. This occurs, in part, due to the unique perspectives each author has brought to the subject. Rather than examine Conrad under a lens of inquiry, this work creates a prism in which Conrad's oeuvre is fractured, elucidating individual threads while bringing about a convergence of understanding to one of the greatest authors of English literature.

The fifteen chapters in this book demonstrate the wide-reaching impact Conrad's work has had within and outside of scholarly communities. By way of introduction, this volume begins with an essay from the Editor, Jeremiah J. Garsha, reading Joseph Conrad's life and works from a world history perspective, while also making the case that the world history as a discipline is enriched with a study of Conrad. The volume then moves to a brief biographical sketch of Joseph Conrad, linking his key publications to the events in his life that they capture. This volume is then divided into three sections.

In the first section, **Critical Contexts**, a historical and cultural overview of Conrad is provided in four chapters. The first four chapters all use *Heart of Darkness* as jumping-off points into a broad range of analyses. Joshua Pritchard illuminates the historical colonial backdrop in which the novella is set, and the postcolonial world in which it has now been received. Next, Taryn B. Cornell creates an analytical matrix assessing the critical receptions of Conrad's novella. In the third chapter, Peter Arnds laudably examines the intertextuality of colonial atrocities documented by Conrad in two seemingly disconnected Holocaust literary representations. The final chapter in this first section provides the requisite jumping-off point to move this volume forward into the critical reading element. Kieran Dodds takes the unprecedented step of combining "Youth," *Heart of Darkness*, "The End of the Tether," and *The Nigger of the 'Narcissus'* to reveal Conrad's inconsistent ideologies regarding community and belonging, which he juxtaposes with a historical view of colonial interruptions.

The second chapter of this book, **Critical Readings**, is a collection of ten deeper readings into specific Conradian works or themes organized around his writings. These ten chapters focus on specific texts, with varying methodological approaches. Lydia Craig's first chapter uses a gender analysis to explore the nuanced differences in *Nostramo* and *The Secret Agent* as they underwent corrective revisions during the translation from serial to first-edition books. Hatice Övgü Tüzün undertakes a comparative reading of *Nostramo* and the Trinidadian author V.S. Naipaul creating "half-made societies," which were constructed for colonial control and postcolonial reclamation, respectively. Similarly, Phillip A. Lobo looks at the notion of "world-building" found in *Nostramo*. Yet here, his chapter suggests, the making and unmaking impulse has been updated and passed forward to the reader and consumer. Fouiza Reza and Vikarun Nessa bring *Lord Jim* into the present. Their chapter uses a rereading of Conrad's novel in light of the current refugee crisis. Fitrilya Anjarsari's chapter looks at notions of psychological development in *Almayer's Folly*. Other essays in this title include:

- "Joseph Conrad on the *Titanic*: A Pioneering Spirit of Safety and Life at Sea" by Stefania Elena Carnemolla
- "The Writer Who Foresaw Slow Food: Joseph Conrad and the Morality of Eating" by Francesco Buscemi
- "Quantitative Eleccutionary Methods: Joseph Conrad's Harmony and Juxtaposition in *Heart of Darkness*" by Gerardo Del Guercio
- "The Unreadable Sea: Manliness in Joseph Conrad's *Victory: An Island Tale* (1915) and "The Tale" (1917)" by Benjamin Bronnert Walker
- "*Heart of Darkness* and the Problem of Faith" by Charlotte Fiehn

In the final section, **Resources**, easy-to-follow lists are given in order to help guide the reader through important dates, keep track of and sort through Conrad's most important publications, and understand the difference between Conrad's most important publications, and understand the difference between Conrad's fiction and nonfiction writings, which admittedly often blur together. A selection of further reading is then provided. Each essay in *Critical Insights: Joseph Conrad* includes a list of Works Cited and detailed endnotes. Also included in this volume is a **Bibliography**, biographies of the **Editor** and **Contributors**, as well as an alphabetical **Index**.

The *Critical Insights* Series distills the best of both classic and current literary criticism of the world's most studied literature. Edited and written by some of academia's most distinguished literary scholars, *Critical Insights: Joseph Conrad* provides authoritative, in-depth scholarship that students and researchers will rely on for years. This volume is destined to become a valuable purchase for all.

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