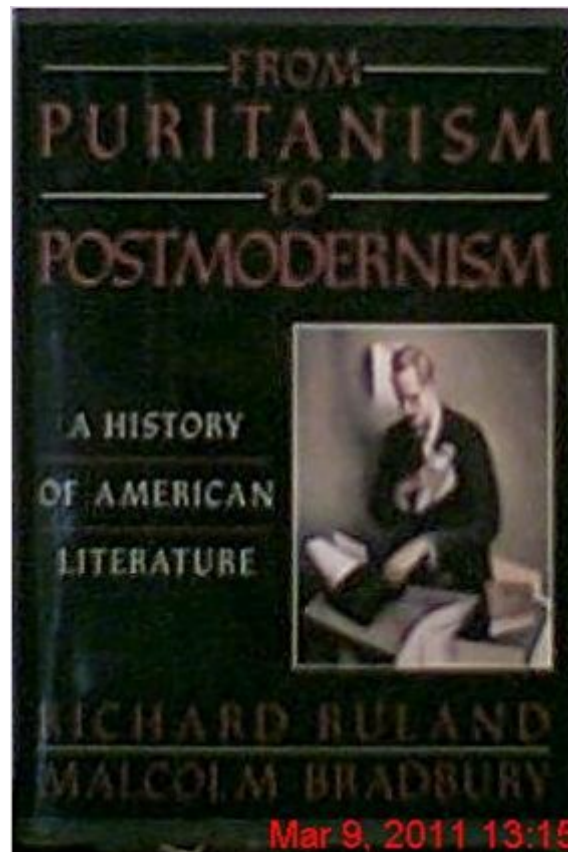




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From Puritanism To Postmodernism: A History Of American Literature



Synopsis

From Modernist/Postmodernist perspective, leading critics Richard Ruland (American) and Malcolm Bradbury (British) address questions of literary and cultural nationalism. They demonstrate that since the seventeenth century, American writing has reflected the political and historical climate of its time and helped define America's cultural and social parameters. Above all, they argue that American literature has always been essentially "modern," illustrating this with a broad range of texts: from Poe and Melville to Fitzgerald and Pound, to Wallace Stevens, Gwendolyn Brooks, and Thomas Pynchon. *From Puritanism to Postmodernism* pays homage to the luxuriance of American writing by tracing the creation of a national literature that retained its deep roots in European culture while striving to achieve cultural independence.

Book Information

Paperback: 352 pages

Publisher: Viking Adult; 1st American ed edition (1991)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0670835927

ISBN-13: 978-0670835928

Product Dimensions: 20 x 20 x 20 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.8 pounds

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (1 customer review)

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Easy reading but not dull witted, quite an enjoyable and informative book. Malcolm Bradbury (Sir Malcolm) was (died in 2000) a British professor of American Studies and Richard Ruland is a professor of English at Washington University in St. Louis. They know their business and oh, how wonderful, they are able writers. Bradbury was even a Booker Prize Best Novel nominee (1983)for *Rates of Exchange*.

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