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# The Pragmatic Whitman Reimaging American Democracy

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# The Pragmatic Whitman Reimaging American Democracy:

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Democratic Vistas concluding with observations on its moral and political implications today Throughout he illuminates Whitman's great achievement learning that a full appreciation for the complexities of human life meant understanding that liberty can take many different and conflicting forms and allows us to contemplate the relevance of that achievement at the beginning of the twenty first century A Companion to Walt Whitman Donald D. Kummings, 2009-10-19 Comprising more than 30 substantial essays written by leading scholars this companion constitutes an exceptionally broad ranging and in depth guide to one of America's greatest poets Makes the best and most up to date thinking on Whitman available to students Designed to make readers more aware of the social and cultural contexts of Whitman s work and of the experimental nature of his writing Includes contributions devoted to specific poetry and prose works a compact biography of the poet and a bibliography Walt Whitman and the Making of Jewish American Poetry Dara Barnat, 2023-08 Walt Whitman though not a Jewish poet has served as a crucial figure within the tradition of Jewish American poetry starting in the mid nineteenth century until today However the genealogy of Jewish American poets responding to Whitman is wider and more nuanced than often recognized Due to Allen Ginsberg's overt adoption of Whitman it is often believed that Ginsberg is the only Jewish American poet to have engaged with Whitman's poetic style and democratic ethos. This book reveals how the lineage of poets responding to Whitman extends far beyond Ginsberg and that Ginsberg himself receives Whitman through earlier Jewish American poets like Charles Reznikoff This project presents such a genealogy of poets in dialogue with Whitman and each other from Emma Lazarus and Adah Isaacs Menken through twentieth century poets such as Charles Reznikoff Karl Shapiro Kenneth Koch Muriel Rukeyser Adrienne Rich Marge Piercy and Alicia Suskin Ostriker Gerald Stern and beyond By researching Whitman's role in this tradition systematically in the work of individual poets and in the framework of Jewish American poetry more broadly this book seeks to fill a gap in the understanding of these dynamics and to invite other scholars to examine the Whitman Jewish connection A major finding in this book is that Whitman has been adopted by Jewish American poets as a liberal symbol against elements in High Modernist literary culture which the poets perceived to be exclusionary and anti Semitic Thus there is a negotiation of the vexed territory of being Jewish in America through an alignment with Whitman As such the turn to Whitman serves as a mode of exploring Jewish and American identity whereby Walt Whitman the poet is imagined to be Jewish and American The Whitman Revolution Betsv Erkkila, 2020-12-15 The Whitman Revolution brings together a rich collection of Betsy Erkkila's phenomenally influential essays that have been published over the years along with two powerful new essays Erkkila offers a moving account of the inseparable mix of the spiritual sexual political in Whitman and the absolute centrality of male male connection to his work and thinking Her work has been at the forefront of scholarship positing that Whitman's songs are songs not only of workers and occupations but of sex and the body homoeroticism and liberation What is more Erkkila's writing demonstrates that this sexuality and communal impulse is central to Whitman's revolutionary poetry and his conception of democracy itself an

insight that was all but suppressed during the mid twentieth century emergence of American literature as a field of study Highlights of this collection include Erkkila s essays on pairings such as Marx and Whitman Dickinson and Whitman and Melville and Whitman Across the volume she demonstrates an international vision that highlights the place of Leaves of Grass within a global struggle for democracy The Whitman Revolution is evidence of Erkkila's remarkable ability to lead critical discussions and marks an exciting event in Whitman studies Democracy in the Poetry of Walt Whitman Thomas Riggs, 2012-10-05 This informative edition explores Walt Whitman's poetry through the lens of democracy Chapters include an examination of Whitman's life and influences a look at key ideas related to democracy in Whitman's poetry and a series of essays that explore topics such as Whitman's views of democratic comradeship the role of bonds between men Whitman's approach to patriotism and Whitman's contradictory views on slavery and race Readers are also presented with contemporary perspectives on democracy such as the importance of an informed electorate and the impact of American individualism on contemporary politics A Place for Humility Christine Gerhardt, 2014-09-01 Emily Dickinson and Walt Whitman are widely acknowledged as two of America's foremost nature poets primarily due to their explorations of natural phenomena as evocative symbols for cultural developments individual experiences and poetry itself Yet for all their metaphorical suggestiveness Dickinson's and Whitman's poems about the natural world neither preclude nor erase nature s relevance as an actual living environment In their respective poetic projects the earth matters both figuratively as a realm of the imagination and also as the physical ground that is profoundly affected by human action This double perspective and the ways in which it intersects with their formal innovations points beyond their traditional status as curiously disparate icons of American nature poetry That both of them not only approach nature as an important subject in its own right but also address human nature relationships in ethical terms invests their work with important environmental overtones Dickinson and Whitman developed their environmentally suggestive poetics at roughly the same historical moment at a time when a major shift was occurring in American culture s view and understanding of the natural world Just as they were achieving poetic maturity the dominant view of wilderness was beginning to shift from obstacle or exploitable resource to an endangered treasure in need of conservation and preservation A Place for Humility examines Dickinson's and Whitman's poetry in conjunction with this important change in American environmental perception exploring the links between their poetic projects within the context of developing nineteenth century environmental thought Christine Gerhardt argues that each author's poetry participates in this shift in different but related ways and that their involvement with their culture's growing environmental sensibilities constitutes an important connection between their disparate poetic projects. There may be few direct links between Dickinson's letter to the World and Whitman's language experiment but via a web of environmentally oriented discourses their poetry engages in a cultural conversation about the natural world and the possibilities and limitations of writing about it a conversation in which their thematic and formal choices meet on a surprising number of

levels Whitman East and West Ed Folsom, 2002 In Whitman East and West fifteen prominent scholars track the surprising ways in which Whitman's poetry and prose continue to be meaningful at the beginning of the twenty first century Covering a broad range of issues from ecology to children's literature gay identity to China's May 4th Movement nineteenth century New York politics to the emerging field of normality studies Mao Zedong to American film each original essay opens a previously unexplored field of study and each yields new insights by demonstrating how emerging methodologies and approaches intersect with and illuminate Whitman's ideas about democracy sexuality America and the importance of literature Confirming the growing international spirit of American studies the essays in Whitman East and West developed out of a landmark conference in Beijing the first major conference in China to focus on an American poet Scholars from Asia Europe and North America set out to track the ways in which Whitman's poetry has become part of China's cultural landscape as well as the literary landscapes of other countries By describing his assimilation into other cultures and his resulting transformation into a hybrid poet these essayists celebrate Whitman's multiple manifestations in other languages and contexts Every Hour, Every Atom Walt Whitman, 2020-07-01 Some of the dimmest years in Walt Whitman's life precede the advent of Leaves of Grass in 1855 when he was working as a journalist and fiction writer Starting around 1850 what he d begun writing in his personal notebooks was far more enigmatic than anything he d done before One of Whitman s most secretive projects during this timeframe was a novel Life and Adventures of Jack Engle serialized anonymously in the spring of 1852 and rediscovered and properly published in 2017 The key to the novel's later discovery were plot notes Whitman had made in one of his private notebooks Whitman's invaluable notebooks have been virtually inaccessible to the public until now Maintaining the early notebooks wild syncretic feel and sample illustrations of Whitman's beautiful and unkempt pages scholars Zachary Turpin and Matt Miller's thorough transcriptions have made these notebooks available to all sharing Whitman's secret space for developing his poetry his writing his philosophy and himself **Radical Future Pasts** Romand Coles, Mark Reinhardt, George Shulman, 2014-06-17 Written by both well established and rising new scholars Radical Future Pasts seeks to open up new possibilities for the practical application of political thought Unlike conventional state of the discipline collections this volume does not summarize where the field of political theory has been Rather than accept traditional versions of the political past the contributors reinterpret both canonical and current texts to demonstrate how politics can be theorized and applied in new ways

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