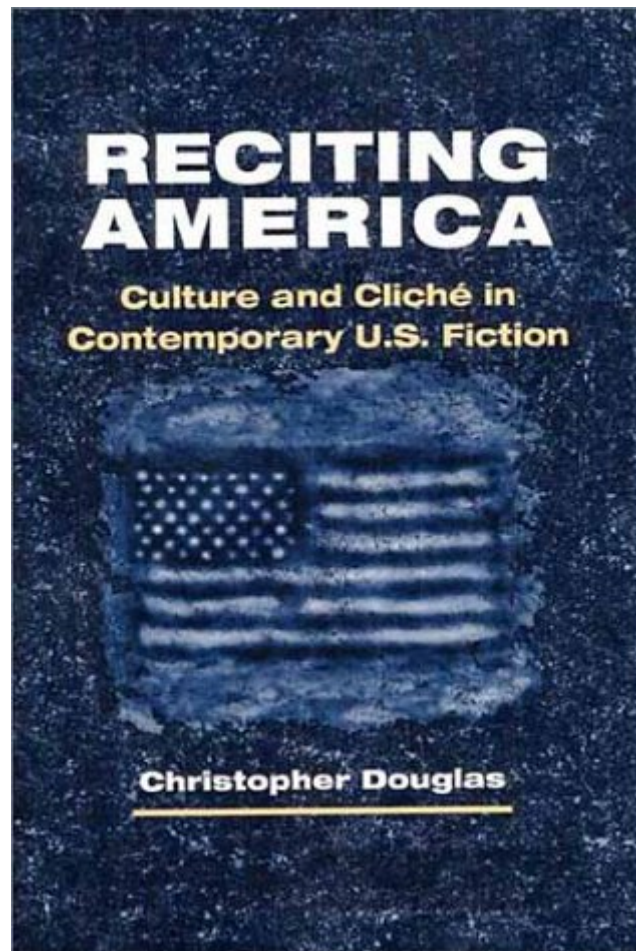


# Reciting America: Culture and Cliche in Contemporary U.S. Fiction PDF



 **Download**

 **Read Online**

Reciting America: Culture and Cliche in Contemporary U.S. Fiction by Christopher Douglas ISBN 0252026039

From 'one nation under God' to 'life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness', what we say about being American is closely linked to how we understand ourselves as Americans. Through a close examination of four representative post-World War II novels, Christopher Douglas illuminates the complex relationship between being American and reciting American discourses. "Reciting America" provides fresh readings of Russell Banks' "Continental Drift", Ralph Ellison's "Invisible Man", Maxine Hong Kingston's "Woman Warrior", and T. Coraghessan Boyle's "East Is East", as well as other texts such as the cartoons of Matt Groening and the inaugural poems of Robert Frost and Maya Angelou. Considering these works in light of theories of Mikhail Bakhtin, Sacvan Bercovitch, and others, Douglas suggests that the American Dream and several other national vocabularies have become inflexible forms of language that disallow apprehension of the real. He

explores how these novels and other texts confront national discourse and strive, though with inconclusive results, to open America up to new subject positions by offering alternatives to the dominant ideology. Douglas finds contemporary intellectual and political life, against the backdrop of a mythology enshrined in proclamations, pledges, and public documents, to be impoverished by the pervasive use of cliches, which he identifies as figures of speech that stimulate emotion or action while short circuiting reflection. In its extreme cliched form, the American Dream consists of nothing more than advertising slogans and popular culture images; yet these pronouncements retain a powerful hold on the will and imagination of U.S. citizens. Probing the limits of public discourse, the power of the American Dream cliché, and the complexity of identity in the United States, "Reciting America" is a sophisticated look at the range of motion available to individuals trying to act on the official texts that produce them as social beings.

## **Reciting America: Culture and Cliche in Contemporary U.S. Fiction Review**

This Reciting America: Culture and Cliche in Contemporary U.S. Fiction book is not really ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you get by reading this book is actually information inside this reserve incredible fresh, you will get information which is getting deeper an individual read a lot of information you will get. This kind of Reciting America: Culture and Cliche in Contemporary U.S. Fiction without we recognize teach the one who looking at it become critical in imagining and analyzing. Don't be worry Reciting America: Culture and Cliche in Contemporary U.S. Fiction can bring any time you are and not make your tote space or bookshelves' grow to be full because you can have it inside your lovely laptop even cell phone. This Reciting America: Culture and Cliche in Contemporary U.S. Fiction having great arrangement in word and layout, so you will not really feel uninterested in reading.