



A Historical Guide to Joseph Conrad

John Peters

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Born to Polish parents in what is now known as the Ukraine, Joseph Conrad would become one of the greatest writers in the English language. With works like *Lord Jim*, *The Nigger of the "Narcissus,"* and *Heart of Darkness*, he not only solidified his place in the pantheon of great novelists, but also established himself as a keen-eyed chronicler of the social and political themes that animated the contemporary world around him. The original essays assembled here by John G. Peters showcase the abundance of historical material Conrad drew upon to create his varied literary corpus. Essays show how the author mined his early life as a sailor to pen gripping, realistic tales of nautical life while issuing scathing indictments of colonialism and capitalist cupidity in works like *Almayer's Folly* and *Heart of Darkness*. His unique sense of himself as an outsider is explored in relation to his pointed political novels that critiqued corruption and terrorism, most notably in *Nostramo* and *The Secret Agent*. In addition to his major works, essays consider Conrad's contributions as an innovative modernist and his unique role in the nineteenth-century literary marketplace. Complete with an up-to-date bibliography and illustrated chronology, *A Historical Guide to Joseph Conrad* provides an invaluable resource to the life and work of the major novelist.

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