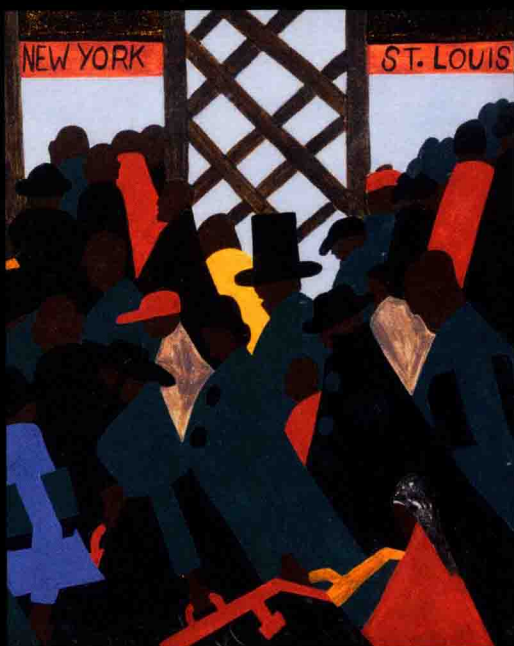


THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO



TRANSNATIONAL  
AMERICAN  
LITERATURE

*Edited by Yogita Goyal*

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**CAMBRIDGE**  
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THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO  
TRANSNATIONAL AMERICAN LITERATURE

For two decades, the “transnational turn” in literary studies has generated enormous comment and controversy. This *Companion* provides a comprehensive account of the scope, impact, and critical possibilities of the transnational turn in American literary studies. It situates the study of American literature in relation to ethnic, postcolonial, and hemispheric studies. Leading scholars open up wide-ranging examinations of transnationalism in American literature – through form and aesthetics, theories of nation, gender, sexuality, religion, and race, as well as through conventional forms of historical periodization. Offering a new map of American literature in the global era, this volume provides a history of the field, key debates, and instances of literary readings that convey the way in which transnationalism may be seen as a method, not just a description of literary work that engages more than one nation. Contributors identify the key modes by which writers have responded to major historical, political, and ethical issues prompted by the globalization of literary studies.

YOGITA GOYAL is Associate Professor of English and African-American Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles. She is the author of *Romance, Diaspora, and Black Atlantic Literature* (Cambridge University Press, 2010) and editor of the journal *Contemporary Literature*.

*A complete list of books in the series is at the back of this book.*

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VIET THANH NGUYEN is the author of the novel *The Sympathizer* (2015) and two scholarly works, *Race and Resistance: Literature and Politics in Asian America* (2002) and *Nothing Ever Dies: Vietnam and the Memory of War* (2016). With Janet Hoskins, he coedited *Transpacific Studies: Framing an Emerging Field* (2014). He is an Associate Professor of English and American Studies and Ethnicity at the University of Southern California, and the recipient of fellowships from ACLS and the Radcliffe Institute for Advance Study.

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MARÍA JOSEFINA SALDAÑA-PORTILLO is a Professor with the Department of Social and Cultural Analysis and the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies at NYU. She has published more than twenty articles in the United States and Latin America on revolutionary subjectivity and subaltern politics; development studies and U.S. imperialism; racial formation in the United States and Mexico; and Latino cultural studies. Her most recent book, *Indian Given: Racial Geographies Across Mexico and the United States*, compares racial formation in the two countries from the colonial period through the present (2016). In 2015 Saldaña-Portillo coedited *Des/posesión: Género, territorio, y luchas por la auto-determinación* with Marisa Belausteguigoitia Rius. Her first monograph is *The Revolutionary Imagination in the Americas and the Age of Development* (2003).

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## CHRONOLOGY

Estimated late 1400s to late 1500s	formation of the Iroquois Confederacy between Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga, and Seneca nations around what was later named Lake Ontario
1492	Genoan Christopher Columbus sails from Spain across the Atlantic Ocean, landing in modern-day Bahamas, Cuba, and Haiti
1493	Columbus's second voyage; establishment of Spanish colony on Hispaniola (Haiti)
1494	Treaty of Tordesillas between Spain and Portugal, mediated by Pope Alexander VI's edict of <i>Inter Caetera</i> , divides territorial sovereignty of present and future New World discoveries
1497	Italian explorer Giovanni Caboto (John Cabot) lands on the North American mainland, claiming modern-day Newfoundland for King Henry VII of England
1500–02	Amerigo Vespucci sails down the eastern coast of South America
1502–04	Columbus's fourth voyage sails down the coast of Central America
1507	"America" first appears in print as a toponym on German cartographer Martin Waldseemüller's map titled <i>Universalis Cosmographia</i>
1511	foundation of Santa Maria del Darien, the first Spanish town on the American continents

- 1513 Spanish explorer Juan Ponce de León lands on the coast of Florida
- 1514 Bartolomé de las Casas writes to the Spanish Crown to petition for improved treatment of native peoples in the Americas
- 1519-21 Hernan Cortes leads a Spanish military campaign against the Aztecs, destroying Aztec populations and making the Aztec capital Tenochtitlan the new capital of his imperial government, now Mexico City
- 1526 Spanish explorers bring enslaved Africans to modern-day South Carolina
- 1534 French explorer Jacques Cartier lands on a peninsula at the mouth of the St. Lawrence River, claiming the land as French territory
- 1572 following the murders of two Spanish ambassadors, Inca royal Tupac Amaru is executed by Spanish soldiers
- 1608 Quebec City founded as the capital of New France
- 1619 English colonialists form the colony of Jamestown in modern-day Virginia, with twenty Africans as indentured servants
- 1620 separatist English Puritans led by William Bradford establish a colony at Plymouth Plantation, in Massachusetts Bay
- 1630-54 Dutch colonials occupy northeastern Brazil and develop sugar plantations, using African slave labor
- 1630-60 around 200,000 immigrants from the British Isles cross the Atlantic to the Americas
- 1634-38 Pequot War, a series of military conflicts between Pequots and New England colonists and their Narragansett and Mohegan allies, decimating the Pequot population
- 1664 English seize New Amsterdam from the Dutch and rename it New York
- 1675-78 King Philip's War, a series of military conflicts between Wampanoags led by Metacom and Puritan New Englanders

# CHRONOLOGY

- 1701 Great Peace of Montreal, a peace treaty signed by the governor of New France and representatives from forty native nations
- 1713 Treaty of Utrecht ends War of Spanish Succession; France cedes territorial control of Acadia (modern-day Maine and Quebec) to Great Britain and renounces claims to British territories in Canada
- 1733 150 African slaves revolt in the Danish-controlled island of St. John, capturing a fort in Coral Bay, but are ultimately defeated by Swiss and French troops from Martinique
- 1740 British Parliament passes a law allowing Jews to become citizens in British American colonies
- 1756–63 Seven Years' War, concluded by the Treaties of Hubertusberg and Paris; Britain acquires modern-day Quebec and Nova Scotia (then New France) from France, and acquires Florida from Spain in exchange for returning Cuba to Spanish rule; in the Caribbean, Britain claims the Grenadines, Tobago, St. Vincent, Grenada, and Dominica
- 1770 Boston massacre, British troops fire into a crowd, prompting public outcry and protests
- 1773 Boston Tea Party, protest against taxation
- 1775–83 American Revolution, war of independence waged against Britain by American colonies
- 1776 creation of the Viceroyalty of the Rio de la Plata, with capital in Buenos Aires
- 1776 Anglo-Americans in the British colonies declare independence from England, founding the United States of America
- 1777 Continental Congress adopts the Articles of Confederation, the first US Constitution, and approves the first official flag of the United States
- 1780–81 Jose Gabriel Tupac Amaru II leads an indigenous uprising against the Spanish in Peru

## CHRONOLOGY

- 1780s–1830s Comanche empire in modern-day Texas maintains active commercial trade with both Mexico and the United States
- 1783 Treaty of Paris, Britain acknowledges American independence
- 1783 Black loyalists and former slaves emigrate from Virginia and South Carolina to British Nova Scotia on the (ultimately unfulfilled) promise of free land
- 1784 first ship of the US-China trade departs from New York City
- 1787 Articles of Confederation are replaced by the United States' modern Constitution
- 1787 Northwest Ordinance establishes a blueprint for populating US territory north of the Ohio River
- 1789 George Washington elected president of the United States
- 1790 the United States passes its first national copyright law
- 1791 the City of Washington in the District of Columbia is founded as the new US capital
- 1791 Bill of Rights is ratified, comprising first ten amendments to the constitution
- 1791–1804 Haitian Revolution, a successful slave revolt in the French Caribbean at Saint Domingue, establishes Haiti, the second independent republic in the Americas
- 1799–1804 Prussian naturalist Alexander von Humboldt tours South America, Cuba, and Mexico
- 1795 Naturalization Act establishes guidelines for US citizenship
- 1795 Treaty of San Lorenzo (Pickney Treaty) designates the boundaries between US territory and Spanish colonies in East and West Florida; the United States gains navigational rights on the Mississippi River
- 1800 Gabriel Prosser leads a slave revolt in Richmond, Virginia
- 1803 Louisiana Purchase, France sells more than 800,000 square miles of North American territory to the United States, more than doubling the latter's size

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- 1804 Meriwether Lewis and William Clark depart from St. Louis with a young Shoshoni woman, Sacajawea, reaching the Pacific in 1805
- 1806 Louisiana legislation known as the "Black Codes" or *Codes Noirs* strengthens the power of creole slave-owners
- 1806-21 Neutral Ground Agreement maintains a no-man's land on a large strip of border territory between Spanish Texas and Louisiana
- 1807 Portuguese monarchy moves to Brazil due to the Franco-Spanish invasion of Portugal
- 1808 England and the United States legally ban the transatlantic slave trade; internal slave trade continues
- 1809 the United States annexes territories in western Florida from Spain
- 1810-21 Mexican War of Independence, initiated by Catholic priest Miguel Hidalgo y Castilla
- 1810-28 excepting Cuba and Puerto Rico, all previous Spanish American colonies gain independence from Spain
- 1812-15 the United States declares war on England, resulting in the War of 1812, ended by the Treaty of Ghent
- 1813 Gutierrez-Magee invasions; a small army of Mexicans and Anglo-Americans cross the Louisiana border into Texas, declaring independence of Texas before being defeated by Spanish royalists
- 1816 (US) American Colonization Society founded in Washington, DC, with the goal of repatriating Africans and African Americans to Africa
- 1817 the First Seminole War in Florida begins
- 1819 *americanos* led by Simon Bolivar defeat Spanish troops at the Battle of Boyaca and declare independence of the Republic of Colombia
- 1819 Transcontinental Treaty (Adam-Onis Treaty) makes Florida a US territory, establishes a new border between

## CHRONOLOGY

- the United States and New Spain (Mexico), and Spain recognizes US territorial claims west to the Pacific coast
- 1820 Missouri Compromise divides the United States into slaveholding and non-slaveholding sections
- 1821 Sequoyah invents the Cherokee syllabary, which will be used in printing *The Cherokee Phoenix*
- 1822 Denmark Vesey leads a slave revolt in Charleston, South Carolina
- 1822 Liberia is created as a US colonial state in Africa
- 1822 under Emperor Dom Pedro I Brazil declares independence from Portugal
- 1822–24 Haiti occupies Santo Domingo
- 1823 Alexander Lucius Twilight becomes the first African American to receive a bachelor's college degree, from Middlebury College in Vermont
- 1823 *Johnson v. McIntosh*, the US Supreme Court rules that Native Americans can occupy but never own US territory
- 1823 in a speech to Congress, US President James Monroe delivers what will become known as the "Monroe Doctrine," declaring the end of European imperialism throughout the Americas
- 1825 Erie Canal opens for traffic
- 1826 delegates from new Spanish American nations gather in Panama City at the Congress of Panama (or Panamerican Congress) to develop a unified American geopolitics; US delegates are invited but do not attend (one dies en route, the other arrives late)
- 1827 the Cherokee Nation establishes its constitution and founds the first Native American newspaper, *The Cherokee Phoenix*, in New Echota, Georgia.
- 1830 Gran Colombia fractures into the sovereign nations of Ecuador, Venezuela, and New Grenada; death of Simon Bolivar

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- 1830 Indian Removal Act passed by US Congress forcibly relocates Native American tribes from their ancestral territories in the southeast to the east of the Mississippi River, anticipating the “Trail of Tears” to modern-day Oklahoma
- 1831 Nat Turner leads a slave revolt in Southampton County, Virginia
- 1831 *Cherokee Nation v. Georgia* establishes native territories as “domestic dependent nations” within the United States, despite the arguments of Cherokee Chief John Ross before the US Supreme Court
- 1831 William Lloyd Garrison creates the antislavery journal *The Liberator*
- 1833 abolition of slavery in the British West Indies
- 1834 US artist George Caitlin visits the Comanche center of *Comancheria* on a US peace mission
- 1836 US settlers in Texas successfully win independence from Mexico in a series of battles including the Battle of the Alamo
- 1838 approximate beginnings of the interstate Underground Railroad, a secret network to help enslaved people in the southern United States escape to the free states in the north or to Canada
- 1838 Trail of Tears – forced journey of about 15,000 Cherokee Indians from Georgia to present-day Oklahoma
- 1839 fifty-three enslaved Africans led by Joseph Cinque revolt aboard the Spanish slaver *Amistad*, which is ultimately captured off the coast of Long Island by the US Navy
- 1840 collapse of the Central American Federation creates nations of Nicaragua, Honduras, Costa Rica, El Salvador, and Guatemala
- 1840 Great Peace of 1840 creates a diplomatic alliance between Comanches, Kiowas, Naishans, Cheyennes, and Arapahoes, who often fought together against Euro-Americans in Texas



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- 1844 Samuel Morse invents the telegraph
- 1845 US annexation of the previously independent territory of Texas
- 1845 John Sullivan uses the phrase “manifest destiny” to promote annexation of Texas and Oregon country
- 1846–48 the United States declares war on Mexico, ended by the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo; the United States pays Mexico \$15 million to cede territories comprising modern-day California, New Mexico, and portions of Arizona and Nevada
- 1847 Mormons led by Brigham Young settle in Salt Lake City, Utah
- 1848 the first women’s rights convention is held in Seneca Falls, New York
- 1849 Harriet Tubman escapes from slavery and becomes a crusader for the Underground Railroad
- 1849 California Gold Rush greatly increases migration to the western coast of North America from Mexico, the United States, Hawaii, Peru, China, Ireland, and Germany
- 1849–86 Apache Wars; armed conflicts between US military and Apache nations in the wake of US annexation of earlier Mexican territory
- 1850 US Fugitive Slave Act legally requires US citizens in “free” states to aid in remanding escaped slaves to their owners
- 1850 Compromise of 1850, comprising five separate bills to resolve conflicts between slave and free states regarding territories acquired during the Mexican-American War
- 1850 Brazil officially ends its transatlantic slave trade, but slave trade continues until 1888
- 1854 *People v. Hall*, California Supreme Court declares that Chinese immigrants are classified as nonwhites and thus are ineligible to testify against a white person in US courts