## Contents

## Preface ix

Introduction:	"There Is Much to Be Gained by Our Reading"	I
I America	Reads: Literacy and Cold War Nationalism 10	

- Reading for Character, Community, and Country: J. D. Salinger's
   The Catcher in the Rye 32
- 3. Reading to Outmaneuver: Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man* and African American Literacy in Cold War America 53
  - 4. Reading against the Machine: Oedipa Maas and the Quest for Democracy in Thomas Pynchon's *The Crying of Lot 49* 80
- 5. Metafiction and Radical Democracy: Getting at the Heart of John Barth's Lost in the Funhouse 106
- 6. Confronting Difference, Confronting Difficulty: Culture Wars, Canon Wars, and Maxine Hong Kingston's *The Woman Warrior* 131

Conclusion: "Reading Makes a Country Great" 154

Notes 161

Index 197