



and humorous fulfillment of Ellison's and Faulkner's worries about the nation's interests and composition if these were exclusively circumscribed by immigrant presences.

Chapter Three argues that Ralph Ellison juxtaposes the "Great Migration" with the "New Immigration" to suggest contemporary consequences of the nation's failure to recognize the a priori American-ness of its black population. Seeking cultural integration between native blacks and whites, Ellison depicts the historical injustices, linguistic confusions and political dangers posed by Eastern European immigrants who gain recognition as Americans before southern blacks in pre-WWII New York. Chapter Four argues that William Faulkner regards the presence of Italian immigrants in the U.S. as undermining his efforts to imagine an America free to resolve persistent tensions between North and South, black and white, rural and urban. Alert to the 1920's nativist movement and to southern debates over "New Immigration," Faulkner imagines racially indeterminate, mobile Italian newcomers upsetting internal balances that were necessary for rectifying America's and the South's historical failings. Chapter Five contends that American identity, whether imagined as black and white or as a series of migratory mixings, occludes a primordial hybridity represented by Native Americans. The dissertation concludes by theorizing about American Literature's globalized status.