



# **Pynchon's Postnational Imagination (American Studies - A Monograph)**

*Sascha Pöhlmann*

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**Pynchon's Postnational Imagination (American Studies - A Monograph)** Sascha Pöhlmann  
'Pynchon's Postnational Imagination' is the first monograph to critically analyze Thomas Pynchon's novels with regard to issues of nations, nationality, national identity, nationalism, and the very idea of the national: nation-ness. It argues that Pynchon's fiction can best be conceptualized as "postnational," that is, as working towards dismantling the hegemony of nation-ness as a metanarrative. The study seeks to establish a critical theory of postnationalism that helps conceptualize this complex literary practice. It combines established theories of nation-ness with recent attempts to think beyond the nation, drawing on the ideas of Renan, Gellner and Anderson as well as Habermas, Albrow, Appadurai, and Hardt and Negri in order to offer a viable postnational theory that is as pertinent to literary studies as to other fields. It presents various postnational strategies, most notably that of parageography, to show in detailed critical readings of 'Gravity's Rainbow' (1973) and 'Mason & Dixon' (1997) that Pynchon's novels both exemplify and describe a postnational imagination.

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