

Predrag Brebanović

*The Dark and Bloody Crossroads. The Conflict on the Left – in America (1911–1952)*

*Summary*

The paper is an analytical depiction of the poetic and political debates that took place in the American literature of the indicated period, primarily in small presses and little magazines. After the introductory review of the specifics of the American artistic and ideological radicalism, as well as three general remarks (on the used sources, the non-homogeneous nature of the Left, and its gradual culturalization), we distinguish three periods in the history and activities of the left-wing literary intellectuals in the United States and offer interpretation of the paradigmatic events within each of them. The conclusion deals with the reasons why these activities were unsuccessful and self-destructive.

*Keywords:* conflict on the Left, proletarian literature, *The Masses*, *The New Masses*, *Partisan Review*, Popular Front, Max Eastman, Michael Gold, Edmund Wilson, Lionel Trilling