



## **Appreciating Don DeLillo: The Moral Force of a Writer's Work**

*Paul Giaimo*

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Unlike the majority of American academic critics, author Paul Giaimo contends that Don DeLillo's award-winning novels are fully defined by neither postmodernism nor modernism. To demonstrate this thesis, *Appreciating Don DeLillo: The Moral Force of a Writer's Work* traces DeLillo's style through his novels, showing how it evolved from a recognizably postmodern mode into a realistic treatment of contemporary, postmodern conditions.

In this original and nuanced examination, Giaimo discusses themes that range from the devastating portrayals of evil in *Mao II*, *Libra* and *Cosmopolis*, to the good and inspiring confrontation of media stereotypes and urban missionary work in *Underworld*. The powerful vision of language in *The Names* and *White Noise* is examined as a potent moral force of the novels. Equally important is discussion of the cultural background Giaimo believes should inform any reading of DeLillo's work, especially his Italian-American ethnic heritage and the American Catholic church of the 1950s.



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