

The Man in the High Castle da una guerra all'altra

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DOI 10.26379/CZ2025.1_004

Abstract

This essay aims at reading Philip K. Dick's 1962 novel *The Man in the High Castle* as a war narrative. Notwithstanding the absence of combat scenes, the novel is totally conditioned by the counterfactual victory of the Axis in the Second world war, so that its uchronic reality is a product of a war; moreover, the threat of a nuclear conflict looms large on that reality, thus positing this narrative as an anamorphic depiction of the cold war, which was at its height when Dick was writing the novel. All in all, by reversing the outcome of World War II the author implicitly issues a judgment on the world of 1962, questioning its ethical status. Moreover, the essay suggests that Dick's narrative may be legitimately read as a postmodernist theodicy, which strives to grasp the nature of evil in a counterhistorical context. Last but not least, some of Dick's literary sources are traced and discussed, thus shedding some light on the meta-literary dimension of the novel.