Contents

	Introduction: Literature as the Mirror of Modernity	1
1	On the Advantages of Being a Barbarian	11
2	Literature and the Moral Imagination of Modernity	22
3	The Two Histories of Literary Culture in Bengal	40
4	A Strange Love of Abstractions: The Making of a Language of Patriotism in Modern Bengali	118
5	Tagore and Transformations in the Ideals of Love	159
6	The Poetry of Interiority: The Creation of a Language of Modern Subjectivity in Tagore's Poetry	188
7	Laughter and Subjectivity: The Self-Ironical Tradition in Bengali Literature	219
8	Reading a Song of the City: Images of the City in Literature and Films	251
9	The Art of Despair: The Sense of the City in Modern Bengali Poetry	272
10	The Invention of Private Life: A Reading of Sibnath Sastri's Autobiography	301
11	The Second Mahabharata	335
	Index	359