

Contemporary Exile in Kazuo Ishiguro's Novel 'When We Were Orphans'

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Abstract

Centered on one of Ishiguro's latest novels, the paper aims at deciphering those types of contemporary exile materialized in the person of the cultural orphan bereaved of national and personal identity . The nostalgic mood of Ishiguro's previous works still persists, although it sometimes acquires tragic accents in a world dominated by chaos and alienation. Dealing, in his personal manner, with the complexity of the margin-center relation, Ishiguro offers us a challenging approach on the contemporary decentered and borderless post-imperial order. Nostalgia breeds revolt and Ishiguro's heroes cannot help resisting their rootlessness, although their struggle hardly ever brings about the long wished-for personal wholeness.