## Contents

I	Introduction	Ι
	Of Empires and the German Nation	2
	From National to World Literature	6
	Disclaimers and a Glance Ahead	ΙI
2	National Origins and the Imperial Past	15
	Hermann: A German Hero?	19
	The Janus-Faced Roman Empire	22
	Imperial Germany and the Legacy of Rome	24
3	German Literary History and the Medieval Renaissance	33
	The Song of Anno	35
	Walther von der Vogelweide	40
	Early Modern Nuremberg	48
	Conclusion	54
4	Silesian Patriots and Imperial Subjects	55
	Seventeenth-Century Silesia	59
	Andreas Gryphius: Religious Faith and Imperial Politics	61
	Daniel Casper von Lohenstein: The Trauerspiel as a Trojan Horse	69
	Race and Resistance in Lohenstein's Arminius	75
	Conclusion	78
5	Goethe and the End of the Holy Roman Empire	81
	The End of an Empire	83
	Goethe's Early Experience of the Empire	85

x Contents

	Young Goethe and the German Nation	89
	Literary Politics in a Revolutionary Age	95
	Hermann and Dorothea: Infinitely Limited	98
	Wilhelm Meister's Apprenticeship:	
	Personal Bildung and National Theater	101
	Faust II: Anachronistic Empire and the New Imperialism	107
	Weltliteratur in Contemporary Context	113
6	Romantic Nationalism and Imperial Nostalgia	119
	Friedrich Schlegel's Political Theory	123
	Eichendorff: Conservative Catholic and Prussian Civil Servant	126
	Presentiment and Presence: Local Patriotism and	
	Philosophical Pessimism	128
	Durande Castle: Elegiac Conservatism	135
7	Worldly Provincialism in Imperial Germany	143
	Gottfried Keller: A Swiss Liberal for the German Kulturnation	148
	Between Germany and Switzerland	151
	Swiss Federalism versus German Imperialism	157
	Theodor Fontane: A Prussian Cosmopolitan	160
	Effi Briest: Psychographic Realism	161
	Conclusion	174
8	Collapsing Empires and Nascent Nations	177
	Thomas Mann and Franz Kafka: Antipodes and Affinities	178
	Locating Franz Kafka	180
	Minor Literatures and the Yiddish Language	185
	The Chinese Wall and a Talking Ape	188
	Continuity and Change in the Work of Thomas Mann	195
	From the German Empire to the Weimar Republic	201
9	Revisiting the Heimat after the Third Reich	215
	Siegfried Lenz: The Joys of Duty and the Language of Silence	217
	Günter Grass: A Rootless Cosmopolitan Resists Reunification	225
	The Flounder: Local History in Global Context	228
	Coda	234

	Imperial Fictions: German Literature Before and Beyond the Nation-State Todd Kontje University of Michigan Press, 2018		
	Contents	xi	
10	Popular Fiction and the Imperial Past	237	
	Daniel Kehlmann, Measuring the World	239	
	Christian Kracht, Imperium	248	
11	Conclusion: National Literature in an Era of World Literature	255	
	Notes	265	
	Works Cited	293	
	Index	321	