

ABSTRACT

Juan Carlos Onetti's Pessimistic View of Twentieth Century Man

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Generally, many of the twentieth century writers concentrate on man's predicament in a senseless world in which he is dehumanized, and all his efforts are useless, absurd. He is a despaired creature. Reason is of little or no value.

This study seeks to show how Juan Carlos Onetti, in his novels, consistently presents a pessimistic view of twentieth century man. The examination of the author's pessimistic view provides a new and important perspective on his writings.

The works chosen are: El pozo, Tierra de nadie, El astillero and Juntacadáveres. Each of these novels contributes greatly to the negative view of man which Onetti charts in his writings.

The study comprises three chapters. Chapter one deals with isolation and lack of communication which Onetti forcefully presents as negative aspects of life which occasion the disintegration of human relationships. Chapter two centres on futility, anguish and entrapment. The characters are unable to find a solution for or an escape from their hopeless and stultifying existence. Chapter three focuses on the absurdity of

existence. The characters' lives are meaningless, and they grope futilely to find a purposeful existence. They are constantly faced with enigmatic situations which obscure their visions and submerge them into uncertainty, and there is a virulent tone of nothingness.

The paper shows that Onetti sees no hope for man. His world-view is distinctively pessimistic. His characters are pitiable beings whose lives are sad portraits of contemporary man.