Contents

Acknowledgments	ix
Introduction	1
ı – Walt Whitman's Life and Works	15
Childhood and Adolescence, 1819-1836	15
Early Adulthood, 1836–1848	16
Wandering and Experimenting, 1848–1855	17
Leaves of Grass 1855–1861	18
The Civil War, 1861–1865	22
Post-War Washington, 1865–1873	22
Camden, 1873–1884	24
Mickle Street, 1884–1892	25
2 – From Democratic Politics to Democratic Poetics	27
Whitman's Poetic Innovations	27
Whitman's Poetic Innovations and Democracy	41
3 – Democracy and Nationalism Intertwined	45
Democracy and Nationalism in Nineteenth-Century America	45
Literary Democracy in Nineteenth-Century American	
Nationalism	49
Leaves of Grass: Democratic National Poetry	58
4 – A Persian Translation of Whitman	61
The Persian Constitutional Movement and American	
Literature	61
The New Intelligentsia and Poetry	65
The First Translator of Whitman	67
The First Translation of Whitman in Persia	70
1943 Reception of Whitman's Translation	82
The First Persian Whitman: An "Urban" Progressive Poet	87
5 – Critical Reception of Whitman	89
Literary Modernism and the Initial Reception of Whitman	89

vi | The Persian Whitman

Nīmā Yūshīj, New Poetry and Whitman	91
A Nīmāic Whitman: An Urban Innovative Poet	99
6 - Creative Reception of Whitman	101
Parvīn's "God's Weaver" and Whitman's "A Noiseless Patient	
Spider"	101
The Emergence of a Mixed-Breed Spider: When Two Literary	
Minds Meet	108
7 – Political Reception of Whitman	115
Poetic Modernism and Iranian Left	115
Persian Poetic Modernism's Oppositional Position	124
8 – A Persian Translation of Whitman's Image	131
"The Laughing Philosopher" in a Persian Costume	131
Persian Poetry, Iranian Politics and Whitman's Image	146
9 – A Post-2009 Reception of Whitman	149
A Persian Mystic Poet on the Front Cover	149
The Game Is Not Over Yet: The Rival Discourses Emerge	150
The Interaction of Competing Discourses	159
Conclusion	163
Chronology	173
Notes	179
Bibliography	219
Index	237