List of Illustrations ix
A Note on the Transliteration of Russian x
Preface and Acknowledgments xi

Introduction • In Search of (Russian) Virtue 1
  Virtue Unearthed 1
  The Very Word 2
  Two Visions of (American) Virtue 5
  After Virtual 9
  American Property, Russian Earth 10
  Virtue as One and as Many 17

Chapter One • Three Modern Characters: The Double, the Con Man, and the Woman in the Window 20
  The Speaker’s Ethos 20
  Characters 22
  The Amazing Mr. Golyadkin (Junior) 25
  Gogol’s Man of Confidence 27
  The Woman in the Window 30
## Contents

### Chapter Two • The Commercial Ethic in Gogol’s *Dead Souls* 40
- Order in the Gallery 40
- A Commercial Catalogue 42
- The Advent of Refined Avarice 54
- *Le doux* Chichikov and the Worth of a Man 58

### Chapter Three • In Search of the Virtuous Man: Minor Readings 66
- Divided Man 66
- Whole Man 76

### Chapter Four • Lara, Lolita, and Other Things that Start with L 89
- Two Books, Four Movies 92
- Women in Windows 99
- Doubles and Heroes 105

### Conclusion • DeLillo’s *Cosmopolis* and the End of an Idiom 110
- World City 115
- Body, Mind, Body 116
- Property, the Road, and the Confidence Man 120
- Doubt, the Double, and the Sick Cosmopolitan 123
- Behind the Kitchen Door 128

### Notes 131

* Bibliography and Filmography 149
* Index 161