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Autore	Moses Michael Valdez <1957->
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Sommario/riassunto	This text analyzes the emergence of the modern novel and the manner in which it mirrors the underlying process of the globalization of culture. It focuses on Hardy's ""The Mayor of Casterbridge"", Conrad's ""Lord Jim"", Achebe's ""Things Fall Apart"" and Vargas Llosa's ""The War at the End of the World"".