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Sommario/riassunto	In this text, Tobin Siebers claims that modern criticism is a Cold War criticism. Postwar literary theory has absorbed the scepticism, suspicion and paranoia of the Cold War mentality, and it plays them out in debates about the divided self, linguistic indeterminacy, the metaphysics of presence, multiculturalism, canon formation, power, cultural literacy and the politics of literature. The major critical movements of the postwar age, Siebers argues, belong to three dominant phases of the Cold War era.