## Contents

**Introduction**  
1

1 **Sources of Avant-Gardism in Nineteenth-Century Florence**  
The Myth of Tuscany and the Problem of the Post-Risorgimento 15  
Intellectual Life, the University, and Foreigners 18  
Modernizing Florence 27  
The Impact of Socialism and Aestheticism 37  

2 **The Leonardo Years**  
Fin-de-Siècle Florence and the Myth of Paris 52  
The Birth of Leonardo and the Search for Secular Religion 64  
The Rhetoric of Cultural Renewal 79  
Spiritual Crisis and the End of Leonardo 94  

3 **La Voce: The Making of a Florentine Avant-Garde**  
New Departures, New Divisions 102  
Cultural Politics in Florence, 1909–1911 111  
A Widening Circle of Participants 127  
War in Libya and Simmering Discontent 143  

4 **Culture Wars and War for Culture: The Years of Florentine Futurism**  
The Politics of Autobiography 153  
Lacerba and Futurism, 1913–1915 156  
The Words of a Modern Man 166  
The Intervention Campaign 181  

5 The Fate of the Florentine Avant-Garde: The War Years and the Postwar Crisis 204
The Experience of War 205
The War at Home and the Politicization of the Avant-Garde 217
The Emerging Culture of Florentine Fascism 227
Modernism and the Postwar “Recall to Order” 234

Conclusion 251
The Cultural Politics of Florentine Modernism 251
The Rhetoric of Mussolini 257
The Florentine Avant-Garde between Two Worlds 262

Notes 269
Bibliography 313
Index 331