Preface

I have taken up eight novels written by Saul Bellow, Bernard Malamud, and Edward Lewis Wallant for this study which attempts to explore certain diasporic anxieties that get revived in the postwar Jewish-American fiction. The study traces the textual tropes and contextual preoccupations that originate in the post-Holocaust Diasporic Angst of the American Jews which manifests itself in a variety of modes. The study also shows how the entire diasporic question is reduced in the American Jew’s consciousness to authentic encounters with internal and external nihilistic powers basing on Heidegger’s and Sartre’s approach to the existential phenomenon of Angst. These authentic encounters are reinforced in the novels through the recurrent themes and images of time, space, and the problematic relationship between the protagonist and the world. The original diasporic problems are reproduced as anxieties dwelling in the Angst-ridden consciousness and brought forth in the form of metaphors of displacement, intimations of entrapment, delusions of persecution and an interrogation with the past.