CONTENTS

Acknowledgments xi
Introduction: The Need for Regeneration 1

Chapter 1. The Clout of the Defter: The Vital Jew in Shadow 27
Chapter 2. Gangsters, Assimilation, and Performative Paradox 53
Chapter 3. The Vital Gangsta and Postmodern Blackface 71
Chapter 4. Heroism and Transformative Performativity 91
Chapter 5. Regen(d)erating Exile: Deterritorializing the Zionist Hero 109

Conclusion: Vital Identity + Politics 129
Notes 145
Works Cited 155
Films Cited 171
Index 173