

An Obsession with History



Russian Writers
Confront
the Past

Andrew Baruch Wachtel

An Obsession With History Russian Writers Confront The Past

Rolf Hellebust



An Obsession With History Russian Writers Confront The Past:

An Obsession with History Andrew Baruch Wachtel, 1994 Providing a theoretical paradigm for understanding the relationship of history and literature in Russia this book traces how major Russian writers of the past 200 years defined the nation's past through creating fictional and non-fictional works on historical themes Ludmila Ulitskaya and the Art of Tolerance Elizabeth Skomp, Benjamin M. Sutcliffe, 2015-06-11 Novelist Ludmila Ulitskaya is a best-selling and critically lauded Russian writer who champions the values of liberalism and tolerance and critiques Putin's policies This is the first English language book about this important writer placing her in the shifting landscape of post-Soviet society and culture

Serfdom, Society, and the Arts in Imperial Russia Richard Stites, 2008-10-01 Serf era and provincial Russia heralded the spectacular turn in cultural history that began in the 1860s Examining the role of arts and artists in society's value system Richard Stites explores this shift in a groundbreaking history of visual and performing arts in the last decades of serfdom Provincial town and manor house engaged the culture of Moscow and St Petersburg while thousands of serfs and ex-serfs created or performed Mikhail Glinka raised Russian music to new levels and Anton Rubinstein struggled to found a conservatory Long before the itinerant painters explored town and country in genre scenes of everyday life Serf actors on loan from their masters brought naturalistic acting from provincial theaters to the imperial stages Stites's richly detailed book offers new perspectives on the origins of Russia's nineteenth-century artistic prowess **How Russian Literature Became Great** Rolf Hellebust, 2024-01-15 How Russian Literature Became Great explores the cultural and political role of a modern national literature orchestrated in a Slavonic key but resonating far beyond Russia's borders Rolf Hellebust investigates a range of literary tendencies philosophies and theories from antiquity to the present Roman jurisprudence to German Romanticism French Enlightenment to Czech Structuralism Herder to Hobsbawm Samuel Johnson to Sainte Beuve and so on Besides the usual Russian suspects from Pushkin to Chekhov Hellebust includes European writers Byron and Shelley Goethe and Schiller Chateaubriand and Baudelaire Dante Mickiewicz and more As elsewhere writing in Russia advertises itself via a canon of literary monuments constituting an atemporal ideal order among themselves T S Eliot And yet this is a tradition that could only have been born at a specific moment in the golden nineteenth-century age of historiography and nation building The Russian example reveals the contradictions between immutability and innovation universality and specificity at the heart of modern conceptions of tradition from Sainte Beuve through Eliot and down to the present day The conditions of its era of formation the prominence of the crucial literary historical question of the writer's social function and the equation of literature with national identity make the Russian classical tradition the epitome of a unified cultural text with a complex narrative in which competing stories of progress and decline unfold through the symbolic biographical encounters of the authors who constitute its members How Russian Literature Became Great thus offers a new paradigm for understanding the paradoxes of modern tradition When Art Makes News Katia Dianina, 2012-11-15 From the time the

word *kul tura* entered the Russian language in the early nineteenth century Russian arts and letters have thrived on controversy At any given time several versions of culture have coexisted in the Russian public sphere The question of what makes something or someone distinctly Russian was at the core of cultural debates in nineteenth century Russia and continues to preoccupy Russian society to the present day When *Art Makes News* examines the development of a public discourse on national self representation in nineteenth century Russia as it was styled by the visual arts and popular journalism Katia Dianina tells the story of the missing link between high art and public culture revealing that art became the talk of the nation in the second half of the nineteenth century in the pages of mass circulation press At the heart of Dianina's study is a paradox how did culture become the national idea in a country where few were educated enough to appreciate it Dianina questions the traditional assumptions that culture in tsarist Russia was built primarily from the top down and classical literature alone was responsible for imagining the national community When *Art Makes News* will appeal to all those interested in Russian culture as well as scholars and students in museum and exhibition studies

Leo Tolstoy John Bayley, 1997 John Bayley concentrates in this short introductory study on Tolstoy's two great works and the ancillary texts and tales that relate to them

The Oxford Handbook of the Russian Novel Julie A. Buckler, Justin Weir, 2025 The Oxford Handbook of the Russian Novel brings together top specialists in Russian literature to treat the Russian novel from the late 18th to the 21st century using a range of interpretive perspectives The Russian novel is a distinctive tradition by virtue of its formal eccentricities as well as the boldness with which these works approached the most complex philosophical political and moral questions This Handbook treats well known works and authors but also explores the much broader tradition of the Russian novel up to the present The essays in the Handbook provide cultural and historical perspectives on the Russian novel as well as showcasing emergent modes of analysis including postcolonialism ecocriticism and posthumanism

Writing History in Late Imperial Russia Frances Nethercott, 2019-12-26 It is commonly held that a strict divide between literature and history emerged in the 19th century with the latter evolving into a more serious disciple of rigorous science Yet in turning to works of historical writing during late Imperial Russia Frances Nethercott reveals how this was not so rather she argues fiction lyric poetry and sometimes even the lives of artists consistently and significantly shaped historical enquiry Grounding its analysis in the works of historians Timofei Granovskii Vasilii Klyuchevskii and Ivan Grevs *Writing History in Late Imperial Russia* explores how Russian thinkers being sensitive to the social cultural and psychological resonances of creative writing drew on the literary canon as a valuable resource for understanding the past The result is a novel and nuanced discussion of the influences of literature on the development of Russian historiography which shines new light on late Imperial attitudes to historical investigation and considers the legacy of such historical practice on Russia today

Russian Realisms Molly Brunson, 2016-09-10 One fall evening in 1880 Russian painter Ilya Repin welcomed an unexpected visitor to his home Lev Tolstoy The renowned realists talked for hours and Tolstoy turned his critical eye to the sketches in Repin's studio Tolstoy's

criticisms would later prompt Repin to reflect on the question of creative expression and conclude that the path to artistic truth is relative dependent on the mode and medium of representation In this original study Molly Brunson traces many such paths that converged to form the tradition of nineteenth century Russian realism a tradition that spanned almost half a century from the youthful projects of the Natural School and the critical realism of the age of reform to the mature masterpieces of Tolstoy Fyodor Dostoevsky and the paintings of the Wanderers Repin chief among them By examining the classics of the tradition Brunson explores the emergence of multiple realisms from the gaps disruptions and doubts that accompany the self conscious project of representing reality These manifestations of realism are united not by how they look or what they describe but by their shared awareness of the fraught yet critical task of representation By tracing the engagement of literature and painting with aesthetic debates on the sister arts Brunson argues for a conceptualization of realism that transcends artistic media Russian Realisms integrates the lesser known tradition of Russian painting with the familiar masterpieces of Russia s great novelists highlighting both the common ground in their struggles for artistic realism and their cultural autonomy and legitimacy This erudite study will appeal to scholars interested in Russian literature and art comparative literature art history and nineteenth century realist movements

The Visual Dominant in

Eighteenth-Century Russia Marcus C. Levitt, 2011-10-01 The Enlightenment privileged vision as the principle means of understanding the world but the eighteenth century Russian preoccupation with sight was not merely a Western import In his masterful study Levitt shows the visual to have had deep indigenous roots in Russian Orthodox culture and theology arguing that the visual played a crucial role in the formation of early modern Russian culture and identity Levitt traces the early modern Russian quest for visibility from jubilant self discovery to serious reflexivity to anxiety and crisis The book examines verbal constructs of sight in poetry drama philosophy theology essay memoir that provide evidence for understanding the special character of vision of the epoch Levitt s groundbreaking work represents both a new reading of various central and lesser known texts and a broader revisualization of Russian eighteenth century culture Works that have considered the intersections of Russian literature and the visual in recent years have dealt almost exclusively with the modern period or with icons The Visual Dominant in Eighteenth Century Russia is an important addition to the scholarship and will be of major interest to scholars and students of Russian literature culture and religion and specialists on the Enlightenment

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