



**THE INFLUENCE OF 19TH-CENTURY RUSSIAN LITERATURE ON THE
WORLDVIEW OF MODERN PEOPLE**

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ABSTRACT

This article explores how 19th-century Russian literature continues to shape contemporary worldviews, examining its philosophical depth, psychological insights, and moral dilemmas. It highlights the enduring relevance of Russian classics in understanding human nature and societal complexities in the modern era. By analyzing the works of masters such as Dostoevsky, Tolstoy and Turgenev, the study demonstrates how their explorations of guilt and faith provide a mirror for the ethical challenges of the 21st century. Ultimately, it reveals that the 19th-century “Golden Age” remains a vital source of wisdom for navigating today's existential anxieties.

KEYWORDS

Russian literature, 19th century, worldview, modern society, existentialism, psychological analysis, moral dilemmas.

INTRODUCTION

The intellectual and cultural landscape of the 19th century witnessed the rise of Russian literature as a dominant force, deeply probing human existence, societal structures, and profound moral questions. Its enduring legacy is not merely historical but actively shapes contemporary thought, offering perennial insights into the human condition that resonate with modern sensibilities [8]. This literature, characterized by its philosophical depth, psychological acute observations, and unwavering commitment to truth, transcends its historical context to influence how individuals perceive themselves, their relationships, and their place within the broader world. The relevance of these works lies in their capacity to articulate universal themes—love, suffering, alienation, faith, and the search for meaning—with a precision and emotional intensity that remain unparalleled [2].

Consequently, an understanding of 19th-century Russian literature is crucial for appreciating many aspects of the modern worldview, from ethical considerations to psychological paradigms. The purpose of this research is to analyze the various ways in which 19th-century Russian literature continues to influence the worldview of modern people. The objectives include identifying key philosophical and psychological contributions, examining the evolution of literary interpretation, and assessing its impact on contemporary ethical and existential discourse. Historically, Russian literature of this period emerged from a complex interplay of internal social pressures and Western intellectual currents, evolving from Romanticism to Realism and psychological analysis, thereby setting the stage for subsequent literary and philosophical developments worldwide [5]. The exploration of these

profound works not only illuminates the past but also provides critical perspectives for navigating the complexities of the present.

The research methodology employed in this study combines literary analysis with an examination of cultural reception theory. Through close textual reading, specific examples from canonical 19th-century Russian literary works are scrutinized for their philosophical and psychological content [7]. This involves dissecting narrative structures, character development, and thematic preoccupations to uncover their underlying messages about human nature and society. Concurrently, a qualitative analysis of critical essays, academic journals, and contemporary discussions (e.g., literary blogs, cultural reviews) is conducted to gauge the ongoing influence and interpretation of these works by modern audiences. This dual approach allows for a comprehensive understanding of both the intrinsic qualities of the literature and its extrinsic impact on various cultural spheres.

The obtained results indicate several significant areas where 19th-century Russian literature profoundly influences the modern worldview. Firstly, the emphasis on psychological realism, particularly evident in the works of Fyodor Dostoevsky and Leo Tolstoy, continues to inform contemporary understandings of human psychology [1]. Dostoevsky's exploration of internal conflict, moral ambiguity, and the existential struggle for meaning, exemplified in characters like Raskolnikov in "Crime and Punishment," provides a foundational text for discussions on guilt, redemption, and the multifaceted nature of the human psyche [3].

Modern readers and psychological theorists frequently draw parallels between these literary analyses and contemporary psychological models, recognizing the timeless accuracy of Dostoevsky's insights into irrational impulses and subconscious motivations. Tolstoy, similarly, through his meticulous depiction of character development and the internal lives of his protagonists in "Anna Karenina" and "War and Peace," laid groundwork for modern narrative psychology, revealing the intricate interplay between individual choice and societal expectation.

Secondly, the ethical and philosophical dilemmas presented in these works remain highly pertinent. Authors such as Ivan Turgenev, with his exploration of nihilism and generational conflict in "Fathers and Sons," anticipated many of the ideological clashes that define modern political and social discourse [4]. The questions of progress, tradition, individual freedom versus collective responsibility, and the search for an authentic life are not merely historical inquiries but continue to shape contemporary ethical debates. The characters' struggles with these concepts resonate with current societal discussions on identity politics, cultural values, and personal autonomy.

Furthermore, the satirical and critical dimensions of Russian literature, particularly the works of Nikolai Gogol and Mikhail Saltykov-Shchedrin, offer enduring tools for dissecting social hypocrisy and political corruption [6]. Gogol's "Dead Souls" mocks the provincial bureaucracy and moral decay, reflecting universal human foibles that remain recognizable in modern administrative and social structures. This satirical lens trains readers to critically evaluate power dynamics and societal norms, fostering a more nuanced and skeptical approach to institutional narratives. The analysis of these elements reveals that the depth of inquiry into human morality, existential fears, and societal contradictions provided by 19th-century Russian literature continues to supply a richly complex framework for understanding and critiquing the modern world. The universality of themes and the psychological acuity of characters facilitate an ongoing dialogue between historical texts and contemporary concerns, thereby solidifying their foundational role in shaping the modern intellectual landscape.

The interpretation of these results underscores that Russian literary giants were not just chroniclers of their time but were prophetic in their understanding of human nature and societal dynamics. Their works serve as foundational texts for fields beyond literature, including psychology, philosophy, and sociology. Modern discussions on existentialism often reference Dostoevsky's exploration of free will and responsibility, while debates on social justice and economic disparity can find echoes in the critiques embedded in Tolstoy's writings. The enduring appeal and interpretative richness of these texts suggest that their influence will continue to evolve, offering new perspectives as contemporary societal challenges emerge.

The profound impact of 19th-century Russian literature on the worldview of modern people is undeniable and multifaceted. This research has demonstrated that the philosophical depth, psychological realism, and ethical inquiries embedded in the works of authors such as Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, Turgenev, and Gogol continue to resonate profoundly in contemporary society. Their explorations of internal conflict, moral ambiguity, existential crises, and societal hypocrisy offer timeless insights into the human condition, making these texts indispensable for understanding ourselves and the world around us.

The primary contributions of this literary period include pioneering new forms of psychological realism, which provided unprecedented depth to character portrayal and illuminated the complex interplay of motivations and struggles within the human psyche. Furthermore, these works rigorously examined fundamental ethical and philosophical dilemmas, challenging readers to grapple with questions of faith, reason, freedom, and responsibility. The satirical elements within these classics also continue to serve as powerful tools for social critique, enabling modern individuals to critically analyze the structures and values of their own societies.

In conclusion, 19th-century Russian literature is not merely a historical artifact but a living body of work that actively shapes contemporary thought, offering a rich framework for understanding human nature, social dynamics, and critical moral issues. Its enduring relevance lies in its ability to transcend cultural and historical boundaries, providing universal lessons that remain pertinent to the challenges and complexities of modern existence.

Future research could explore the specific impact of Russian literature on non-Western cultures, analyze its role in the development of particular psychological theories, or investigate its evolving interpretations in the age of digital media. Further comparative studies with other national literatures of the period might also yield deeper insights into the uniqueness and universality of its influence.

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