

## The Golden Age Of Russian Literature

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**Annotation:** The article highlights the Golden Age of Russian literature, illuminated by the genius of A.S. Pushkin, N.V. Gogol, I.S. Turgenev, F.M. Dostoevsky, L.N. Tolstoy A.P. Chekhov, with the brilliance of the talent of a whole constellation of major writers, Russian literature has rapidly come a long way, has moved into the ranks of the greatest literatures of the world. The development of realism in Russian literature differed significantly during this period from its development on Western European soil. At this time, Russian literature in its significance came to the forefront of the world literary process.

**Key words:** Golden age, brilliance, talent, constellation, path, literature of the world, Western European soil, avant-garde, process, realism...

The golden age of Russian literature, illuminated by the genius of A.S. Pushkin, N.V. Gogol, I.S. Turgenev, F.M. Dostoevsky, L.N. Tolstoy A.P. Chekhov, with the brilliance of the talent of a whole constellation of major writers, Russian literature has rapidly come a long way, has moved into the ranks of the greatest literatures of the world. Despite the significant unevenness of literary development and the great diversity of artistic trends, as in the West, the main trend in Russian literature in the second half of the 19th century was critical realism.

The development of realism in Russian literature differed significantly during this period from its development on Western European soil. At this time, Russian literature in its significance came to the forefront of the world literary process. The main historical and cultural prerequisites for the exceptionally intensive development of Russian literature are the special place that literature occupied in the life of the country, where it was the leading form of social consciousness, its connection with the liberation movement, which acquired an extraordinary scope. In 1851, according to Herzen's definition, - "For a people deprived of public freedom, literature is the only tribune, from the height of which it makes you hear the cry of your indignation and your conscience."

The influence of literature in such a society takes on proportions long lost in other European countries. This literary-centricity of Russian culture, the special function of literature in the life of society, also determines ideas about the role of the artist as a prophet, a teacher of life, different from those that prevailed in Western Europe. Because of this, a fundamentally different type of relationship between the writer and the public is emerging in Russia. A distinctive feature of Russian literary life is the wide participation of the reader and criticism in disputes over socially significant works - the controversy caused by the books of Turgenev, Goncharov, Ostrovsky, Tolstoy, Dostoevsky.

The largest artistic individuals contributed to the formation of the theory of realism, it experienced the strongest influence of revolutionary democratic criticism, which largely determined the course of the literary process for almost the entire century. Already in the first half of the century, a powerful tradition of realism was formed, primarily in the works of Pushkin and Gogol, which continued creatively in the future.

Russian realism is characterized by the scale of the problem, the desire to comprehend the nature of world-historical development. This scale, due to the awareness of the endless possibilities of national life, the openness of the historical process, made it necessary to find a living soul under the prose of everyday life with its hostility to man.

The very openness and synthetic nature of Russian realism determine its dominant position in the literary process and its predominance over non-realistic artistic systems. At the same time, much brings the development of Russian realism closer to the development of the same method in Western Europe. This

applies, first of all, to the fate of the novel - the main genre with which the development of realism is associated, both in Russia and in the West.

The Russian realistic novel, as well as the Western European novel of the second half of the 19th century, is characterized by an extremely reliable depiction of everyday life, the environment and the objective world, and human characters. The Russian novel achieves high skill in revealing vague, barely conscious movements of the soul. Suffice it to recall the role played by Tolstoy's inner monologue in the development of the world novel.

There were many points of convergence, and at the same time, we can talk about the creation of a special new structure of the novel, which turned out to be extremely fruitful for this genre in the 20th century.

The Russian novel intersects with the novel of Balzac, Stendhal and Dickens and differs from a number of phenomena of Western realism of the second half of the century, the idea of society not as a formed social institution, but as an arena for the struggle of various forces, a struggle that has a real positive perspective. For Russian writers, this is connected with faith in the forces of the people, with that constant criterion of the people. a blessing that inspires, with a different understanding of the meaning of this concept, literally all the creators of the Russian novel.

In Russian literature, a special type of novel comes to the fore, which can be defined as a novel of spiritual struggles, characterized at the same time by the epic breadth and fullness of the image in Russian life.

Tolstoy's "dialectics of the soul" and Dostoevsky's deep psychological analysis are remarkable not only for their masterful disclosure of the screaming contradictions of human consciousness, but also for their ability to make these spiritual conflicts the focus of great philosophical and social meaning, refracting truly world-historical problems in them. The relationship between the hero and the environment is fundamentally different in the Russian and Western European novels of that time. The hero in Russian writers always bears the full measure of moral responsibility, and his activity determines the movement of the plot.

Turgenev is credited with creating a special type of novel, when in a dramatic collision the life position of the characters is revealed from the point of view of the worldview, moral and practical. Such a situation of "spiritual verification", based on the recognition of the ethical responsibility of a person and faith in the possibility of his active influence on reality, we almost never find in the Western novel. Turgenev's type of novel of "spiritual verification" was enriched by Tolstoy and Dostoevsky. In the Russian novel, it is not about "fitting" a person into reality, but about active confrontation with it, not so much about the environment as about history, about the historical meaning and results of human activity. A positive system of values, combined with the most sober realism, first of all, determined the exclusive place of Russian literature in this period. This positive system is associated with a special meaning given to the categories of the people and the individual.

The main achievements of Russian literature, especially the novel, are well known, but it is necessary to note the successes of short prose: the social essay, which is distinguished by exceptional social sharpness, the genre of the story in the works of Turgenev, Leskov, and others, which largely prepared further changes in the system of genres. Small prose forms come to the fore instead of the novel. These achievements of short prose are connected, first of all, with the name of Chekhov. During this period, the path of poetry was also different from Western European literary development, primarily the work of Nekrasov, which was a significant impetus for the development of realistic civil lyrics. The path of Russian drama is also peculiar, the pinnacle of which in this period is the work of Ostrovsky, which occupied a very special place against the backdrop of Western European drama. There was no satire in the Western European literatures of that time, close in strength to the satire of Saltykov-Shchedrin.

Innovative discoveries of Russian literature during this period receive high recognition in the world. Symptomatic of that literary process is the triumphant success of Russian literature, which is beginning to show in the West and in the East.

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