The Twentieth Century Russian Novel: An Introduction

David C Gillespie

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Abstract

Eight of Russia's most popular and significant novels are presented in this important new guide for students. Works include: "We" by Evgenii Zamiatin "Red Cavalry" by Isaak Babel "Envy" by Iurii Olesha "How the Steel Was Tempered" by Nikolai Ostrovskii "The Master and Margarita" by Mikhail Bulgakov "Doctor Zhivago" by Boris Pasternak "Cancer Ward" by Alexander Solzhenitsyn "Pushkin House" by Andrei Bitov In each chapter, David Gillespie examines one novel in detail and explores the career of the author and the critical reception of the work. Throughout, considerable reference is made to recently published scholarship and archival materials to provide students and scholars of Russian and Comparative Literature with a guide to these important Russian authors and their place in the world of literature. The book also includes an extensive bibliography of secondary literature and contains textual references in both the original Russian and in English translation.

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Thinking of nineteenth-century Russia, we may find ourselves thinking of a woman’s image, perhaps one of the memorable heroines in the great Russian novels written by men: Sonia Marmeladova from Dostoevskii’s Crime and Punishment (Prestuplenie i nakazanie), Natasha Rostova from Tolstoi’s War and Peace (Voina i mir), or any of the Turgenev heroines so exemplary that a special adjective was created for the type. These characters have deeply influenced our perceptions of Russian life, to the poi... 