



BOOK REVIEW AND ANALYSIS OF 'WAR AND PEACE'

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ABSTRACT

The book 'War and Peace' by Leo Tolstoy is based on story of novel annals of French attack on Russia in 1812 and influence of Napoleonic era on Tsarist society through the narratives of blue-blooded families in Russia. This research article reviews this book and critically analyses it. Enormous segments of this literature are philosophical as opposed to narrative. The characters battle with issues novel to their period and their way of life. This research article explores literary devices utilized in the book and investigates striking metaphors in reference to laws overseeing history. This study examines occasions of the recent past of the novel with the relatable characters. The contemporary importance of this book in comprehension in feeling, mental strength, and emotional excellence in development of humankind emerging from countless subjective human wills and obscurations, is also analysed in this article.

KEYWORDS: War, Peace, Russian, French, Book Review, Literature.

INTRODUCTION

War and Peace is novel by Russian creator Leo Tolstoy, who is one of the world's most noteworthy writers, which was originally written in Russian. An incredible story of daring scale, War and Peace is an outstanding

amongst other known historical books. The story centers on the attack on Russia by Napoleon (French) in 1812 where Tolstoy saw misfortune that elaborate all humankind. It is an account of affection and infidelity as much as all things considered of war and demise. It underlines the silly thought processes of human conduct in both times-war and peace.

In War and Peace, Tolstoy laces enormous ethos - freedom of thought and destiny, birth and demise, struggle and love, along with exceptional sights of Russia in 19th century. "War and Peace is attestation of life itself, a total picture, of everything in which an individual discovers their satisfaction and significance, their sorrow and embarrassment."¹ In the book, Tolstoy utilizes some striking measured metaphors to represent his hypothesis of historical laws and to clarify the pomposity of putting the obligation of history's heading on the shoulders of the heads of armed forces and countries.

SUMMARY OF THE BOOK

War and Peace opens in 1805 at Russian city St. Petersburg, as anxiety of Napoleon's relentless imperialistic war fighting spreads. The majority of the people, including Andrew Bolkonsky, Pierre Bezukhov and the Rostov and Kuragin families, are presented at a party. After that, both Andrew and Nicolas travel to the Austrian front under Russian General Kutuzov, an apocryphal representation of Mikhail Kutuzov, to fight incursion of Napoleon's army. Andrew is later wounded during the Battle of Austerlitz and assumed died until he returns back to his spouse Lise, who passes way shortly after

¹ War and Peace, GOODREADS (May 25, 2021, 10:00 AM),

https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/656.War_and_Peace.



giving birth. Meantime, Pierre is wedded to Helene Kuragina. Helene cheats him, so he abandons her and joins a monastery.²

Meanwhile, Nikolas has amassed a significant betting debt causing the Rostov family to lose the majority of their money. Despite vowing to wed Sonya, his cousin, he is persuaded to wed a rich woman. Then Napoleon and Tsar Alexander's peaceful concord happens in 1807 (Treaty of Tilsit). Andrew quickly develops feelings for Natasha Rostov, while being informed by his dad that he should wait a year prior wedding her.³ Andrew returns home to learn that Natasha has been disloyal. So Andrew rejects her. Later Pierre soothes her and falls in affection with her. Napoleon attacks Russia in 1812.

Andrew rejoins army, and Pierre is determined that he must himself execute Napoleon. Mary, Andrew's sibling, is compelled to flee her home as the French attack. Nicholas saves her and they rekindle their friendship. After that, Andrew gets injured in war and dies. Pierre is arrested by French and he sees many killings, which profoundly impacts him. Platon, a savvy farmer, befriends him while he is imprisoned. Later, he is liberated from the French and then gets sick. He weds Natasha once he recovers. Nikolas weds Mary, and they have lovely life.⁴

CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF THE BOOK

The most renowned, yet most overwhelming books in present day library is "War and Peace by Leo Tolstoy". Essential justification

is that the book is beyond 1,200 pages. It has kept the tradition of being a magnum opus and is cherished by numerous who read it. It's a novel which is as yet applicable to the cutting edge reader since it is a novel of the theme of existence. The story is no less significant in chaotic current period. The protagonists portrayed by Tolstoy are mediocre, as opposed to other authors in Russia e.g. Dostoevsky, who are very customary. Literature in Russia generally characters with insane existential problems and who challenge the society. 'War and Peace' breaks this culture. Understanding War and Peace is to experience battling with genuine philosophical issues, e.g. how they should live like Pierre or Andrew.

The readers will observe the protagonists as they go through preliminaries and battle through life. A few characters go from being readers' favorite initially to later being detested, to at last turning out to be adored by and by. The literary devices utilized in the book are panning, wide shots and close-ups, which are similar to the styles of the novel that emerged in mid-19th century. "War and Peace will cause you to rest easy thinking about being alive."⁵ Like the instance of Nikolas going to commit suicide but he tunes into his sister singing and overlooks his difficulties and his debts as he is contacted by melodic agreement. Numerous scenes shows how ordinary occasions in life are really exceptional.

It's in clearing fight scenes that Tolstoy shows how unimportant the individual truly is the manner by which even commanders

² LEO TOLSTOY, *WAR AND PEACE* 498 (Penguin Classics, 2007).

³ TOLSTOY, *supra* note 2, at 613.

⁴ TOLSTOY, *supra* note 2, at 1159.

⁵ Andrew Kaufman, *Seven Reasons You Should Give 'War and Peace' A Chance*, HUFFPOST (May 28, 2021, 10:05 AM), https://www.huffpost.com/entry/war-and-peace_b_5339720.



and rulers are helpless before irregular and capricious events. At that point when Tolstoy changes to the close drawing room scenes, the whole viewpoint movements, and nothing matters more than the individual cognizance that he portrays. The juxtaposition of these two sentiments is simply, virtuoso. Tolstoy portrays the procession of human undertakings, e.g. in evacuation of Moscow scene. The irony and comedy likewise radiate through when he portrays Berg's strange recitation of war stories or count Rostov's honest restraint to issue of if they should empty their carts of things for injured army men. Tolstoy is pounding that the individual is a captive to destiny and secretive forces.

BOOK REVIEW OF 'WAR AND PEACE'

In the story, the 'war' and 'peace' cross from war zone to glad homes, old affiliations neglected to fresh associations made. E.g. Andrew who is in relationship with Natasha, heads out to war and passes away; the French take Pierre as prisoner and later he ends up getting by to wed Natasha. War and Peace typifies the "Russian magnificent era". It challenges fantasies through depiction of destinies of innumerable conventional people, youthful and old, French, Russian, and through creator's own enthusiastic addressing of reality of history. There are distinctive depictions of diverse fights, many romantic tales, an enquiry of thoughts, Western and Russian, life's philosophical investigations, and a journey to respond to the moral inquiries.

Tolstoy's writing is a rich, liquid, multi-voiced creative medium and brimming with

vulnerabilities, shocks and moving points of view. There is a conflict among Russian and French dialects in the book, War and Peace, which symbolically reflects to the conflict among Russian and French people. "The huge solidarity which accepts most noteworthy variety is the mysterious secret of Tolstoy's Writing."⁶ The tale is communicated is such delightful words that it feels as everything is going on before our eyes. Each version and translation of this book is imperfect. They interpret 'Andrei' as 'Andrew' yet keep 'Helene' and 'Pierre'. In my opinion, Louise and Aylmer Maude's version of this book is more legitimate.

War and Peace was a forthcoming errand in one's psychological universe. There are masterpiece narratives of aristocratic families alongside genuine characters on occasions encompassing French intrusion of Russia. Tolstoy's "peace" is loaded with expectation and interest and philosophical longing, from the blasting confounding sallies of youth (Natasha) to the surrendered feeling that life isn't what one envisioned when one were youthful (Pierre). The deftness scope of human dramatization is faltering. Tolstoy uncovered his own chauvinist while composing War and Peace. Napoleon was a personification, in a rising circular segment of patriotic contempt, Tolstoy continued to deride pretty much every French soldier and official.

War and Peace is like 'the boundless sky' which Andrew sees as he lies on the battlefield of Austerlitz. When the 'War' returns, it's no theoretical matter. Everywhere there are individuals up to speed in this incredible occasion, puzzled by it.

⁶ Richard Pevear and Larissa Volokhonsky, *Author Essay*, PENGUIN HOUSE (March 29, 2021, 10:15 AM),

<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/208646/war-and-peace-by-leo-tolstoy-a-new-translation-by-richard-pevear-and-larissa-volokhonsky/>.



Here's Rostov on seeing the French soldier he can't resist the urge to consider him to be an individual.⁷ In the last pages the scenes get back to local life brimming with family, as the war ages and their kids are conceived. Such countless blended feelings in the characters, as our story ebbs to a nearby, as this transcending masterpiece attracts at any point closer to quietness. At last, we see Pierre and Natasha together, however the last lines of the emotional narrative have a place with Nikolai and Andrew's child.

INTEGRATION METAPHOR AND HISTORICAL LAWS

In Tolstoy's view, solution for disappointment of historians to derive truth about history lies in laws of history and mathematics. "We should regard the development of mankind as ceaseless and go to mathematics. To comprehend the laws overseeing history, we should 'integrate' the wills of entire public. When we can do this integration, the historical laws will be obvious. But isn't clear what the variables are."⁸ In the epilogue, Tolstoy clarifies significance of his metaphor. Since the wills deciding the bearing of history are limitless little and boundless in number, we can't handle such intricacy won't ever decide causation. "The quest for historical causes is purposeless, and historians must rather look for the laws overseeing history." However, Tolstoy gives no considerable direction on what these laws are.

WHY SHOULD THIS BOOK BE RECOMMENDED?

Its exemplary work of art is even better than 'Les Miserables' in its portrayal of Napoleonic Wars. This tale other books like "For whom the bell tolls", in the shade. Towards the end the novel is social book. Even Clausewitz may begrudge the detail that Tolstoy brings to the portrayal of the Emperor's behavior on front line. The excellence of this novel is epitomized in toward choice and feelings supplementing one another. However, Tolstoy isn't in every case right. I preferred about this book is the way albeit the anecdotal characters are far dwarfed by real chronicled figures, they appeared to be genuine and relatable, so it's difficult to accept that those characters are fictional. Tolstoy saw world regarding real laws and not symbolic laws.

CONCLUSION

War and Peace is viewed as one of Tolstoy's best literary accomplishments and stays a globally adulated exemplary of world literature.⁹ He establishes the frameworks for his metaphor and approaches intellectuals to discover the history' laws by integrating the differential of history. Tolstoy's arguments are like; somebody accomplishes something, another person responds such that has neither rhyme nor reason, and subsequently history is controlling things. Tolstoy concludes that "a fight isn't lost as a result of terrible streets or lack of ammo (which are real factors in all wars). It's the universe unfurling everything."¹⁰

The finish of the novel is a colossal anti-climactic frustration. In the last pages,

⁷ TOLSTOY, *supra* note 2, at 803.

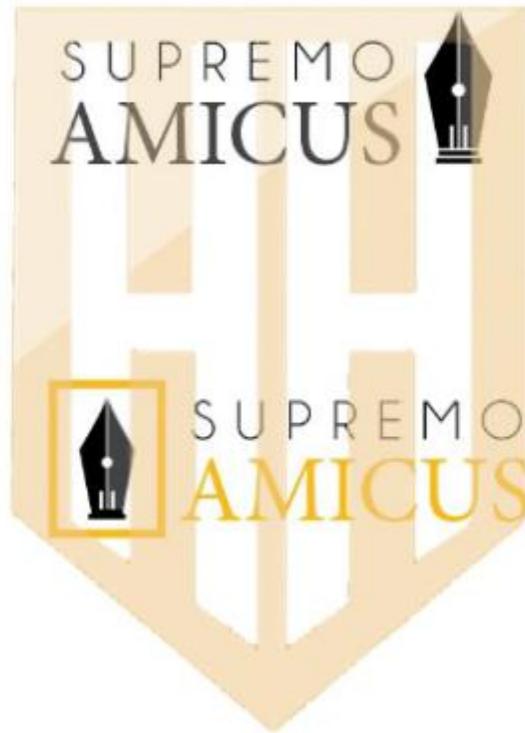
⁸ Stephen Ahearn, *Tolstoy's Integration Metaphor from War and Peace*, 112 (7) THE AMERICAN MATHEMATICAL MONTHLY 631, 635 (2005).

⁹ CHARLES MOSER, ENCYCLOPEDIA OF RUSSIAN LITERATURE 298-300 (1992).

¹⁰ Matt, *Community Reviews*, GOODREADS (May 30, 2021, 11:30 AM),



Tolstoy portrays Battle of Borodino which is work of art of soldierly fiction. At the epilogues, we won't ever know the destinies of the multitude of characters we've followed for the past thousand pages. Tolstoy leaves their fates to the creative mind. Tolstoy at that point digs into composition on freedom of thought that "it is no less fundamental to move away from bogus vibe of independence and acknowledge dependence that we can't feel." It's a profoundly humanistic work. War and Peace is an experience.



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