

THE HISTORY OF CREATION AND THE IDEA OF THE EPIC NOVEL "WAR AND PEACE"

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Annotation

In this article, the author refers to historical facts and eyewitness accounts that touch upon the history of the concept and the stages of creation of the main literary work of L.N. Tolstoy's epic novel "War and Peace". The issues of influence on the worldview of Tolstoy by like-minded people and prominent representatives of the aesthetic thought of Russia of that period are considered.

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The novel "War and Peace" by L.N. Tolstoy devoted seven years of intense and hard work. September 5, 1863 A.E. Bers, father of Sofya Andreevna, wife of L.N. Tolstoy, sent a letter from Moscow to Yasnaya Polyana with the following remark: "Yesterday we talked a lot about 1812 on the occasion of your intention to write a novel relating to this era." It is this letter that the researchers consider to be the "first accurate evidence" dating the beginning of the work of L.N. Tolstoy over "War and Peace".

Tolstoy called his idea - to capture in art form the half-century history of the country - "Three pores". The first time is the beginning of the century, its first decade and a half, the youth of the first Decembrists who went through the Patriotic War of 1812. The second time is the 20s with their main event - the uprising on December 14, 1825. The third time is the 50s, the end of the Crimean War, unsuccessful for the Russian army, the sudden death of Nicholas I, the amnesty of the Decembrists, their return from exile and the time of waiting for changes in the life of Russia.

In order to truthfully describe the events of the Patriotic War of 1812, the writer studied a huge amount of materials: books, historical documents, memoirs, letters. "When I write history," Tolstoy pointed out in the article "A few words about the book "War and Peace", "I like to be true to reality to the smallest detail." While working on the work, he collected a whole library of books about the events of 1812. In the books of Russian and foreign historians, he did not find any truthful description of events, nor a fair assessment of historical figures. Some of them unrestrainedly praised Alexander I, considering him the winner of Napoleon, others exalted Napoleon, considering him invincible.

When creating the novel, Tolstoy used the memoirs of contemporaries and participants in the Patriotic War of 1812. So, from "Notes on 1812 by Sergei Glinka, the first warrior of the Moscow militia", the writer borrowed materials for scenes depicting Moscow during the war; in the "Works of Denis Vasilyevich Davydov" Tolstoy found the materials underlying the partisan scenes of "War and Peace"; in the "Notes of Alexei Petrovich Yermolov" the writer found a lot of important information about the actions of Russian troops during their foreign campaigns of 1805-1806. Tolstoy also discovered a lot of valuable information in the notes of V.A. Perovsky about his stay in captivity by the French, and in the

diary of S. Zhikharev "Notes of a Contemporary from 1805 to 1819", on the basis of which the Moscow life of that time is described in the novel.

While working on the work, Tolstoy also used materials from newspapers and magazines from the era of the Patriotic War of 1812. He spent a lot of time in the manuscript department of the Rumyantsev Museum and in the archives of the palace department, where he carefully studied unpublished documents (orders and instructions, reports and reports, Masonic manuscripts and letters from historical figures). Here he got acquainted with the letters of the maid of honor of the imperial palace M.A. Volkova to V.A. Lansky, letters from General F.P. Uvarov and others. In letters that were not intended for publication, the writer found precious details depicting the life and characters of his contemporaries in 1812.

Tolstoy spent two days in Borodino. Having traveled around the battlefield, he wrote to his wife: "I am very pleased, very much, with my trip ... If only God would give health and tranquility, and I will write such a Battle of Borodino as has never happened before." Between the manuscripts of "War and Peace" there is a sheet with notes made by Tolstoy at the time when he was on the Borodino field. "The distance is visible for 25 miles," he wrote, sketching the horizon line and noting where the villages of Borodino, Gorki, Psarevo, Semenovskoye, Tatarinovo are located. On this sheet, he noted the movement of the sun during the battle. While working on the work, Tolstoy unfolded these brief notes into unique pictures of the Battle of Borodino, full of movement, colors and sounds.

Throughout the seven years of hard work that the writing of War and Peace required, Tolstoy did not leave his spiritual uplift and creative burning, and that is why the work has not lost its significance to this day. More than a century has passed since the first part of the novel appeared in print, and people of all ages, from young people to the elderly, invariably read War and Peace. During the years of work on the epic novel, Tolstoy declared that "the goal of the artist is not to undeniably resolve the issue, but to make you love life in countless, never exhausted all its manifestations." Then he admitted: "If I were told that what I am writing will be read by present-day children in twenty years and will cry and laugh over it and love life, I would devote all my life and all my strength to it." Many such works were created by Tolstoy. "War and Peace", dedicated to one of the bloodiest wars of the 19th century, but affirming the idea of the triumph of life over death, occupies an honorable place among them.

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