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Leo Tolstoy: Exploring the Depths of Humanity through Words

The famous Russian novelist and philosopher Leo Tolstoy is still regarded as a towering presence in world literature. Leo Tolstoy's works have left an everlasting imprint on the literary landscape, his philosophical ideas continue to inspire generations of readers. In this blog post, we will look at Leo Tolstoy's life, works, and lasting legacy.

The Life of Leo Tolstoy





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[Source: ThoughtCo]

Leo Tolstoy was born on September 9, 1828, at the family estate of Yasnaya Polyana in Tula Province, Russia. Leo Tolstoy was born into a noble family and had a privileged upbringing. He studied law and languages at Kazan University, but his primary interest was literature.

However, Tolstoy's life took a fundamental turn when he embarked on a tour to Europe, where he discovered the ideas of Enlightenment philosophers and witnessed the wider world. This era of self-discovery and exposure to new ideas had a profound impact on his thinking and writing.

Leo Tolstoy's Marriage , Family And Education



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[Source: ThoughtCo]

Leo Tolstoy's personal life was defined by his marriage to Sofia Behrs, which lasted nearly four decades. Their marriage produced 13 children, but it was often stressed by Leo's spiritual and intellectual ambitions, as well as his troubles. Despite the challenges, Sofia played an important role in capturing and preserving Tolstoy's later writings, assuring his literary legacy.

Leo Tolstoy's schooling began at home, and he was later sent to Kazan University to study law. However, he discovered that his scholarly endeavors were unsatisfying and began to seek meaning and purpose in life. Tolstoy entered the Russian army and fought in the Crimean War in 1851. This encounter exposed him to the brutal realities of war, and it left an indelible imprint on him. His views during this period would subsequently find their way into his literary writings, most notably "War and Peace."



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[Source: ThoughtCo]

Leo Tolstoy's Literary Masterpieces

Tolstoy's literary career is defined by multiple classics, each presenting a distinct viewpoint on the human condition. Let's look at some of his most famous works:

War and Peace (1869)





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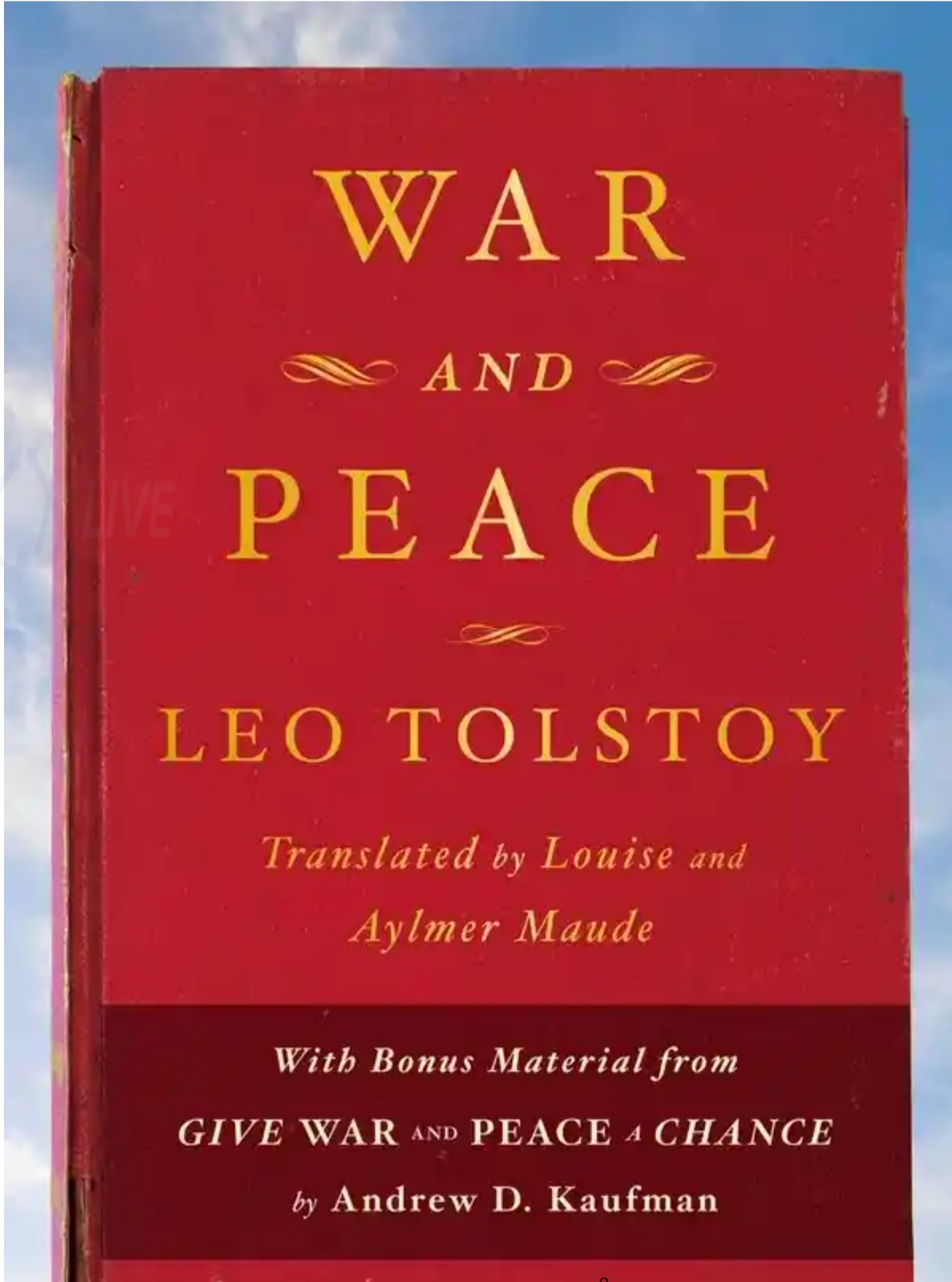
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[Source: Cloudfront]

[Click here to get a free ebook of War and Peace.](#)

Tolstoy's epic historical work "War and Peace" is widely regarded as one of the best novels ever written. The work weaves a complicated story that covers the lives of a diverse cast of characters from various social groups against the backdrop of Napoleon's invasion of Russia. Tolstoy digs deeply into issues of love, war, fate, and the inexorable passage of time through his vivid characters and panoramic view of Russian society.

Anna Karenina (1877)

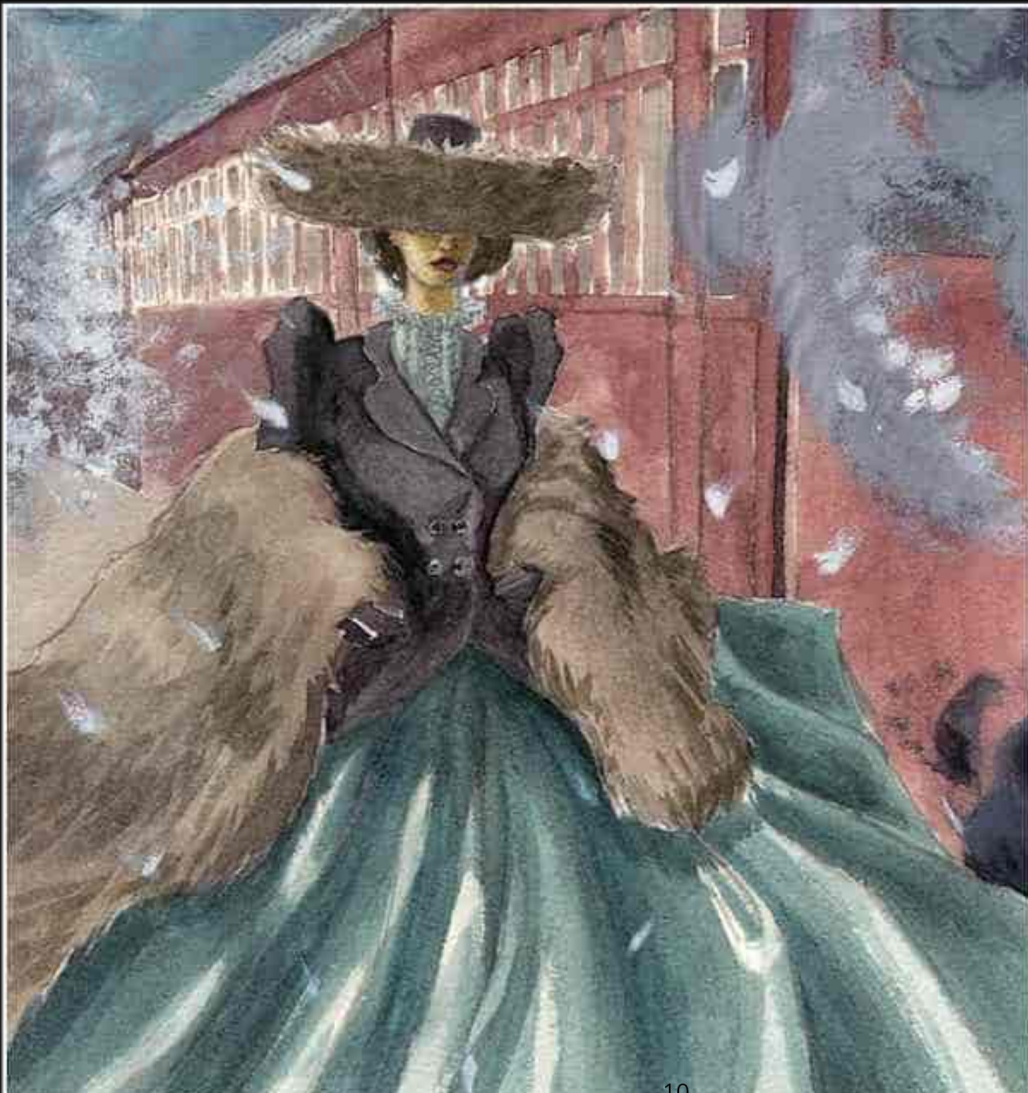


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WORDSWORTH CLASSICS

Anna Karenina

LEO TOLSTOY





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[Source: Amazon]

Click here to get a free ebook of Anna Karenina.

"Anna Karenina" is another towering success in Tolstoy's literary career. This work depicts the tragic story of Anna Karenina, a married woman who embarks on a passionate romance with Count Alexei Vronsky, which finally leads to her demise. Tolstoy examines the difficulties of love, cultural expectations, and the implications of moral choices.

Resurrection (1899)



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WORDSWORTH CLASSICS

Resurrection

LEO TOLSTOY





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Leo Tolstoy: Exploring the Depths of Humanity through Words

[Source: Amazon]

In "Resurrection," Tolstoy addresses issues of social justice, redemption, and spiritual enlightenment. The plot revolves around Prince Dmitri. He is confronted with the consequences of his past acts when he meets a woman he harmed. This novel is a scathing critique of Tolstoy's time's legal and prison systems, as well as a plea for personal transformation and social reform.

The Kreutzer Sonata (1889)





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THE
KREUTZER
SONATA
BY
LEO TOLSTOY





Leo Tolstoy: Exploring the Depths of Humanity through Words

[Source: kobo]

"The Kreutzer Sonata" is a novel about the destructive power of jealousy and the complexity of marital relationships. The plot focuses on a man who becomes overcome by jealousy and does a horrific act. His inner exploration of human emotions and the repercussions of irrationality makes this book both controversial and thought-provoking.

List of books and works written by Leo Tolstoy

Leo Tolstoy is a well-known Russian author, best known for his novels and essays. Here is a selection of his most notable works:

War and Peace (1869)

Anna Karenina (1877)

Resurrection (1899)

The Death of Ivan Ilyich (1886)

Childhood (1852)

Boyhood (1854)

Youth (1857)

Family Happiness (1859)

The Cossacks (1863)

Hadji Murat (published posthumously in 1912)

What Is Art? (1897)

A Confession (1882)

The Kingdom of God Is Within You (1894)

My Religion (1885)

The Kreutzer Sonata (1889)

Master and Man (1895)

The Devil (1889)

These are a few of Leo Tolstoy's most well-known works, but he also published numerous articles, short stories, and letters during his prolific career. His writings frequently delved into complicated issues like morality, spirituality, and the human condition, leaving an indelible mark on literature and philosophy.

Leo Tolstoy: Exploring the Depths of Humanity through Words

Leo Tolstoy's Philosophical Evolution



[Source: ThoughtCo]

Tolstoy went on a spiritual journey that led him to embrace Christian anarchism and nonviolence. His essays, notably those gathered in "A Confession" and "What Is Art?". Dig into his changing perspectives on life's meaning, morality, and the function of art in society. Tolstoy's rejection of organized religion and favor of a simple, rural way of life made him a divisive figure in his day. He pushed for nonviolence, the end of private property, and a communal way of life. His worldview impacted personalities such as Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr., who found inspiration in his nonviolent resistance works.

Leo Tolstoy's Writings on Religion and Morality



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Tolstoy's philosophical investigations were expressed in his essays and treatises. "The Kingdom of God Is Within You" and "What Is Art?" were two of his writings that investigated subjects ranging from the essence of faith to the function of art in society. Tolstoy advocated vehemently for non-resistance to evil in "The Kingdom of God Is Within You," a theme deeply founded in his religious views.

Leo Tolstoy's Legacy and Influence

Leo Tolstoy's influence stretches well beyond the field of literature. His beliefs in nonviolence and passive resistance influenced figures such as Mahatma Gandhi, who credited Tolstoy with molding his ideology of peaceful resistance. Tolstoy's support for social justice and criticism of the Russian Orthodox Church prepared the ground for talks about human conscience and religious freedom.

In conclusion, Leo Tolstoy's life and work highlight literature's ability to probe the depths of human existence and the complexities of morality. Tolstoy's trip represents the progression of his views and values, from his early years as a pampered nobleman to his later metamorphosis into a moral philosopher.

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