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Book Review: Critical Analysis of Literature in 'War and Peace' by Leo Tolstoy

SHRIRAJ DUSANE¹

ABSTRACT

The book 'War and Peace' by Leo Tolstoy is based on story of novel annals of French attack on Russia in 1812 and the 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 conversations as opposed to narrative. This research paper brilliantly follows the characters, from diverse backgrounds, as armed forces attacks from assorted foundations- workers and nobles, regular folks and warriors. As they battle with issues novel to their period and their way of life, it depicts hypotheses and characters rise above their particularity. This research article explores literary devices utilized in the book that are styles of novel that emerged in mid-19th century that look like panning, wide shots and close-ups and also investigates striking metaphors in 'War and Peace'. This study recognizes why novel is anything but a verifiable novel, yet a novel that examines occasions of the recent past with the characters of genuine individuals living in the public eye. 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.

I. INTRODUCTION

War and Peace is novel by Russian creator Leo Tolstoy, which was first distributed in 1869. The book is initially written in Russian. It has total 4 parts or 4 books and an epilogue in 2 sections. The story centers on the attack on Russia by Napoleon (French) in 1812. A dangerous story of incredible scale, War and Peace is an outstanding amongst other known historical books. It is an account of affection and infidelity as much as all things considered of war and demise. With profound knowledge into the conflict stricken Russia, it underlines the silly thought processes of human conduct in both times- war and peace. In Russia's battle with Napoleon, Tolstoy saw misfortune that elaborate all humankind. "War and Peace is

¹ Author is a student at National Law University, Nagpur, India

attestation of life itself, a total picture, as a contemporary commentator put it, 'of everything in which an individual discovers their satisfaction and significance, their sorrow and embarrassment'.²

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. This makes a glorious epic of existence of human in totality of its glory and defect. The tale begins at a shiny society party in 1805 at St Petersburg, where deliberations are dazed by the probability of a war. Five Russian Families will discover exactly how their lives will catch during the following long stretches of war and peace. Terror rapidly submerges Russia as Napoleon's army marches on Russia, and existences of three young people are transformed for perpetuity. In the book, Tolstoy utilizes some striking measured metaphors to represent his hypothesis of history and to clarify the pomposity of putting the obligation of history's heading on the shoulders of the heads of armed forces and countries.

II. ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Leo Tolstoy (1828-1910) was Russian author, novelist, dramatist, political scholar, writer and short stories essayist. He was expert of sensible fiction and is one of the world's most noteworthy writers. After a wicked youth, he participated in Russian armed force in 1851. Later, living for quite a while in St Petersburg and abroad, he wedded in 1862. The bliss this brought him gave him the inventive drive for his two biggest long novels, "War and Peace (1869)" and "Anna Karenina (1877)", for which he is known.

III. SUMMARY AND OVERVIEW OF THE BOOK

Many of the novel's protagonists are introduced during a high society party in St. Petersburg, including Pierre Bezukhov, the socially aberrant although charming ill-conceived kid of a wealthy count, and Andrew Bolkonski, the sharp and goal-oriented kid of a resigned military official. We also meet the Kuragin family, which includes the cunning father Vasili, the fortune-teller youngster Anatole, and the sensual girl Helene. We are then made familiar with the Rostovs, an honorable Moscow family that includes the energetic daughter Natasha, the placid cousin Sonya, and the hurried youngster Nicholas, who has lately entered the army under the command of the veteran General Kutuzov. The cooperation of the Bezukhavs, Bolkonskys, and Rostovs are featured prominently in the tale. "Both Andrew and Nicolas travel to the Austrian front under Russian General Kutuzov, an apocryphal representation of

² *War and Peace*, GOODREADS (May 25, 2021, 10:00 AM), https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/656.War_and_Peace.

Mikhail Kutuzov, to fight incursion of Napoleon's army. Andrew is hurt at the Battle of Austerlitz, and he is presumed dead for a long time. Pierre inherits his father's riches and marries Helene Kuragina. Pierre is cheated by Helene.”³

When Andrew returns back to his home, his better half, Lise, gives birth to a kid and dies in childbirth. Pierre, meanwhile, abandons his better half and engages in a spiritual activity of monasteries. Meanwhile, the Rostov family's wealth are dwindling as a result of Nicholas' gambling debts. “Nicholas' military career continues, and he witnesses Tsar Alexander and Napoleon's wonderful concord in 1807 (Treaties of Tilsit). Natasha matures and falls head over heels in affection with several guys before becoming attached to Andrew.”⁴ Andrew's father is opposed to their wedding and urges Andrew to wait a year before marrying Natasha. Natasha reluctantly agrees to this desire, and Andrew departs to military expedition. Natasha is smitten with Anatole Kuragin, who confesses his feelings for her, and she determines that she adores Anatole and decides to flee with him, but the plan falls through.

Andrew gets home and dismisses Natasha for her involvement with Anatole. Pierre consoles Natasha and is smitten with her. Napoleon assaults Russia in 1812, and Tsar Alexander reluctantly wages war. Andrew returns to the vibrant military forces. Then, Pierre develops a delusory belief that he is on a quest to assassinate Napoleon. When the French arrive on the Bolkonskis' farm, Mary and old Prince Bolkonski (dad of Andrew) are forced to flee. Mary finally drove away from her farm, and she discovers the neighbors hostile.” Nicholas eventually rides up to save Mary, and both feel the stirrings of adoration. In a last battle at Borodino, small Russian military forces defeat the French powers. “The conquest of the French on Moscow had little impact on lives in St. Petersburg's upper social classes. Helene seeks a divorce from Pierre in order to marry a noble of abroad. Pierre becomes mad as a result of this news and flees with his friends, drifting alone across Moscow.

The Rostovs, meanwhile, gather their belongings with the intention of evacuating, but they give up their valuables to pass on injured army personnel. The Rostovs take wounded Andrew with them as they leave the city. Mary pays a visit to the Rostovs to meet Andrew, who is wounded. Andrew forgives Natasha and expresses his love for her and then passes away. Pierre, who is wandering half-crazed in Moscow, is detained by French army and witnesses unending upheaval, pillage, arson, and killing.”⁵ In his detention, he befriends a

³ Sparknotes, *Plot Overview*, SPARKNOTES (May 26, 2021, 10:00 AM), <https://www.sparknotes.com/lit/warandpeace/summary/>.

⁴ Kate Lohnes, *War and Peace Novel by Leo Tolstoy*, BRITANNICA (May 26, 2021, 11:30 AM), <https://www.britannica.com/topic/War-and-Peace>.

⁵ *Supra* note 2.

prudent farmer, Platon Karatev. General Kutuzov brings the Russian army return to Moscow, which the French had left following their defeat at Borodino. The Russians chase the retreating French, and fights and win. So, Pierre is freed from French but he falls ill. After healing, he realizes his feelings for Natasha, to whom she also reciprocate. Pierre and Natasha married in 1813 and have kids. Natasha grows into a powerful and dowdy Russian lady. Nicholas marries Mary after resolving his family's financial troubles and have a peaceful and lovely married life.⁶

IV. CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF THE BOOK

The prestige of possibly the most renowned, yet most overwhelming books in present day library has been achieved by "War and Peace by Leo Tolstoy". Essential justification of its fearsome standing is on the grounds 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. It is a novel which proficiently transfers the magnificence by the way of its reasonable character improvement, touching instances, and relatable characters. The story is no less significant in chaotic current period, than it was at the point when the story was first composed. Ivan Turgenev, a Russian writer, once reprimanded the book since he asserted that the characters were mediocre. The protagonists portrayed by Tolstoy, as opposed to other authors in Russia e.g. Dostoevsky, who are very customary. Literature in Russia generally have inclination towards a kind characters with insane existential problems and who challenge the society. 'War and Peace' breaks the culture by portraying mediocre characters.

The majority of us are stable and ordinary than usual Russian abstract characters, and so it's relatable for someone to identify with characters, e.g. Pierre and Natasha of 'War and Peace'. Through the routineness of his characters, Tolstoy communicates the remarkableness of regular living. E.g. Nikolai Rostov bets until he gets into gigantic debt and gets back home crushed. When he is mulling over suicide, he listens Natasha, his sibling, singing. While tuning in to Natasha sing, Rostov is briefly changed. He overlooks his difficulties and his debts and for that moment he can just thought about that melodic agreement and how it contacted him."⁷ "Something was autonomous of anything on earth and higher than anything on earth", was stated by Tolstoy in that scene. Tolstoy for this scene, among numerous different occasions of the book, shows how an ordinary occasion like tuning into music is

⁶ LEO TOLSTOY, WAR AND PEACE 1159 (Penguin Classics, 2007).

⁷ Kristian Fors, *Book Review: "War and Peace" by Leo Tolstoy*, THE UTAH STATESMAN (May 27, 2021, 11: 30 AM), <https://usstatesman.com/book-review-war-and-peace-by-leo-tolstoy/>.

really exceptional.

Understanding War and Peace is to experience, characters in the story, battling with genuine philosophical issues- not as vaporous deliberations but instead regarding how they should live, like Pierre and Andrew. Since the book is so lengthy, it gave the author the space for unrivaled character improvement. 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 one who reads will feel a distinctive individual in wake of the book. There aren't many novels in world which yields significant extraordinary impact on reader as the 'War and Peace'.

Andrew Kaufman, teacher at Virginia University, composed article 'Seven Reasons You Should Give War and Peace a Chance'. In his last point, he commented, "It will cause you to rest easy thinking about being alive."⁸ Like the instance of Nikolai tuning in to his sister sing in the story. So, understanding War and Peace contacts to the reader's spirit. It's in clearing fight scenes that Tolstoy shows how unimportant the individual truly is the manner by which even commanders 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 just as anybody. E.g. evacuation of Moscow. The irony and comedy likewise radiate through when he portrays Berg's strange recitation of war stories or count Rostov's honest restraint with regards to the issue of if they should exhaust their carts of things to account for injured army men. Tolstoy is pounding his subject that the individual is a captive to destiny and secretive forces. This adds a lot of irony to his story, and some gnawing critique also, as when he says: "These man, diverted by their ethos, were simply the visually impaired executors of the saddest law of need; however they considered themselves to be saints, and confused their doings with accomplishments of the greatest goodness and honor."⁹

V. 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. Andrei 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

⁸ Andrew Kaufman, *7 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.

⁹ TOLSTOY, *supra* note 11, at 803.

to wed Natasha. War and Peace typifies the public legend of "Russian magnificent era," in conflict of Field Marshal Kutuzov and Napoleon. Simultaneously it challenges all such fantasies through distinctive depiction of destinies of innumerable conventional individuals, 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 its changes, and a journey to respond to the moral inquiries.

Tolstoy composed decidedly about war. He wrote, "Powers of Europe crossed lines of Russia and war started - i.e. occasion occurred in opposition to human explanation and to human instinct."¹⁰ War and Peace is the chilling of the landmarks in literature. It's similar to a huge neglected mainland in which a wide range of overwhelming tales circle about existence in the inside. However, when one passes the boundary, one will find that universe in War and Peace is more natural as well as simultaneously more amazing than the other tales. Tolstoy's writing is a rich, liquid, multi-voiced creative medium. 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 militaries. It is a significant component of social and cultural parody in the story's piece, permitting him such linguistic penetrations.

The universe War and Peace is brimming with vulnerabilities, shocks, and continually moving points of view, however when one enters it he will sense that he's in certain hands. "Over everything it is that 'boundless sky', which Andrei finds as he lies injured on the arena of Austerlitz. The huge solidarity which accepts most noteworthy variety is the mysterious secret of Tolstoy's Writing."¹¹ The tale is communicated in such delightful words that it feels as though 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'. You should pick a version suitable to your own taste. Louise and Aylmer Maude's version of this book is more legitimate.

War and Peace was a forthcoming errand in one's psychological understanding universe. Even if its colossal size exemplary book, luckily it's an amazingly extraordinary read. 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)

¹⁰ TOLSTOY, *supra* note 11, at 56.

¹¹ 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/>.

to the surrendered feeling that life isn't what you envisioned when you were youthful, and maybe you're not either (Pierre). The deftness and sheer scope of human dramatization is faltering.

When the 'War' returns, it's no theoretical matter. Everywhere there are individuals up to speed in this incredible occasion, puzzled by it. Here's Rostov on seeing the French official he's cut down: "This pale, mud-stained face of a blond youngster with a dimple on his jawline and radiant blue eyes had no business with front lines; it was not the substance of a foe; it was a home-grown, indoor face."¹² Rostov can't resist the urge to consider him to be an individual. In the last pages the scenes get back to local life brimming with family, as the war age ages and their kids are conceived. Such countless blended feelings in the characters, as our story ebbs to a nearby, as this transcending and fantastic 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 youthful Nikolay and Andrey's child.

VI. TOLSTOY'S VIEWS ON PEACE AND WAR

War culture consistently intrigued Tolstoy. "Not war in the feeling of moves contrived by extraordinary officers ... however, the truth of war; the actual executions", he wrote in 'The Raid'¹³. Readers accept his stories as reproachful of magnificent war exertion, even as incendiary. Tolstoy uncovered his own chauvinist while composing War and Peace. "Napoleon was a personification from the beginning, however, in a rising circular segment of patriotic contempt, Tolstoy continued to deride pretty much every estrangements troopers, officers, and strategists; only basic Russian workers, sectarians, Field Marshal Kutuzov, and periodic clear-seeing field commandant were absolved from the creators disdain. Before he died, Tolstoy declared non-violent protection from fiendishness and asking young fellows to go against military draft."¹⁴ War and Peace has realistic butcher, so numerous peculiar hackings and mutilations, so it is hard to trust Tolstoy as he questioned the veracity of languages of savagery. Tolstoy saw world regarding real cultures, not symbolic cultures. Just abstract emotions, singular, eye-to-eye moral decisions made a difference.

VII. INTEGRATION METAPHOR IN 'WAR AND PEACE' BY TOLSTOY

In Tolstoy's view, solution for disappointment of historians to derive truth about history is same as in the story of Achilles and the turtle. "We should regard the development of

¹² TOLSTOY, *supra* note 11, at 203.

¹³ LEO TOLSTOY, *THE RAID* (Kessinger Publishing, 2005).

¹⁴ Caryl Emerson, *Leo Tolstoy on Peace and War*, 124 (5) PMLA 1855, 1855 - 1858 (2009).

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."¹⁵ In the subsequent epilogue, Tolstoy clarifies the significance of his metaphor. Since the wills deciding the bearing of history are limitlessly little in amount and boundless in number, we can't handle such intricacy won't ever decide causation. "Historians' utilization of discrete occasions and characters to clarify the persistent progression of mankind's history is destined to disappointment. 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 may be. Tolstoy has shown us just the street to be taken.

VIII. WHY SHOULD THIS BOOK BE RECOMMENDED?

Its exemplary work of art is even better than "Les Miserables" in its portrayal of Napoleonic Wars. The Russian lobby is at the focal point of this grand novel. Its expansiveness, profundity and skyline takes it in front. This tale puts other conflict based books like "For whom the bell tolls", in the shade. Furthermore, towards the end the novel is a social book. Indeed, even Clausewitz may begrudge the detail that Tolstoy brings to the portrayal of the Emperor's behavior on front line. The excellence of an abstract novel is epitomized in toward choice and feelings supplementing one another. Though Tolstoy isn't in every case right, its awesome work composed by a really extraordinary scholarly virtuoso. Among many things, 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 gets difficult to accept that those characters are fictional.

IX. CONCLUSION

War and Peace is viewed as one of Tolstoy's best literary accomplishments and stays a globally adulated exemplary of world literature.¹⁶ It's anything but a novel, still less an historical epic, still less a historical account. War and Peace is the thing that the creator needed and had the option to communicate, in the structure where it is communicated. Tolstoy incorporates layers of nuance into the metaphor. 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

¹⁵ Stephen Ahearn, *Tolstoy's Integration Metaphor from War and Peace*, 112 (7) THE AMERICAN MATHEMATICAL MONTHLY 631, 635 (2005).

¹⁶ CHARLES MOSER, ENCYCLOPEDIA OF RUSSIAN LITERATURE 298-300 (1992).

controlling things. Tolstoy concludes that “a fight isn't lost as a result of terrible streets, or clouded vision, or lack of ammo (which are real factors in all wars). It's the universe unfurling as indicated by its impulse.”¹⁷

War and Peace wakes up in that archetypal manner; subsequent to trudging through a bloated essay, you'll unexpectedly find a paragraph which is drawn so clearly that you will recollect it until the end of time. E.g. there's a scene wherein the author portrays the considerations of an old oak plant. The finish of the novel is a colossal anti-climactic frustration. In the last pages, Tolstoy portrays Battle of Borodino. It is work of art of soldierly fiction. At that point come the epilogs. 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, covering his narrative with conclusive summation that "it is no less fundamental to move away from bogus vibe of independence and acknowledge dependence that we can't feel." The degree is amazing and significant, yet on each page you feel the hysterical pulsating of the heart. It's a profoundly humanistic work. In this way, War and Peace was an experience.

¹⁷ Matt, *Community Reviews*, GOODREADS (May 30, 2021, 11:30 AM), https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/656.War_and_Peace.