A HISTORY OF RUSSIAN PHILOSOPHY 1830–1930

The great age of Russian philosophy spans the century between 1830 and 1930 – from the famous Slavophile–Westernizer controversy of the 1830s and 1840s, through the “Silver Age” of Russian culture at the beginning of the twentieth century, to the formation of a Russian “philosophical emigration” in the wake of the Russian Revolution. This volume is a major new history and interpretation of Russian philosophy in this period. Eighteen chapters (plus a substantial introduction and afterword) discuss Russian philosophy’s main figures, schools, and controversies, while simultaneously pursuing a common central theme: the development of a distinctive Russian tradition of philosophical humanism focused on the defense of human dignity. As this volume shows, the century-long debate over the meaning and grounds of human dignity, freedom, and the just society involved thinkers of all backgrounds and positions, transcending easy classification as “religious” or “secular.” The debate still resonates strongly today.


Randall A. Poole is Associate Professor of History at the College of St. Scholastica. He has translated and edited Problems of Idealism: Essays in Russian Social Philosophy (2003) and written numerous articles and book chapters in Russian intellectual history and philosophy.
A History of Russian Philosophy
1830–1930

Faith, Reason, and the Defense of Human Dignity

EDITED BY
G.M. HAMBURG AND RANDALL A. POOLE
To George L. Kline
# CONTENTS

List of contributors

Page xi

Acknowledgments

XV

Introduction: The humanist tradition in Russian philosophy

G.M. HAMBURG AND RANDALL A. POOLE

1

## I The Nineteenth Century

1 Slavophiles, Westernizers, and the birth of Russian philosophical humanism

Sergey Horujy, translated by Patrick Lally Michelson

27

2 Alexander Herzen

Derek Offord

52

3 Materialism and the radical intelligentsia: the 1860s

Victoria S. Frede

69

4 Russian ethical humanism: from populism to neo-idealism

Thomas Nemeth

90

## II Russian Metaphysical Idealism in Defense of Human Dignity

5 Boris Chicherin and human dignity in history

G.M. Hamburg

111

6 Vladimir Solov'ëv's philosophical anthropology: autonomy, dignity, perfectibility

Randall A. Poole

131
Contents

7 Russian Panpsychism: Kozlov, Lopatin, Losskii
   JAMES P. SCANLAN

III Humanity and Divinity in Russian Religious Philosophy
   after Solov’ëv

8 A Russian cosmodycity: Sergei Bulgakov’s religious philosophy
   PAUL VALLIERE

9 Pavel Florenskii’s trinitarian humanism
   STEVEN CASSEDY

10 Semën Frank’s expressivist humanism
   PHILIP J. SWOBOĐA

IV Freedom and Human Perfectibility in the Silver Age

11 Religious humanism in the Russian Silver Age
   BERNICE GLATZER ROSENTHAL

12 Russian liberalism and the philosophy of law
   FRANCES NETHERCOTT

13 Imagination and ideology in the new religious
   CONSCIOUSNESS
   ROBERT BIRD

14 Eschatology and hope in Silver Age thought
   JUDITH DEUTSCH KORNBLETT

V Russian Philosophy in Revolution and Exile

15 Russian Marxism
   ANDRZEJ WALICKI

16 Adventures in dialectic and intuition: Shpet, Il’in, Losev
   PHILIP T. GRIER

17 Nikolai Berdyaev and the philosophical tasks
   of the emigration
   STUART FINKEL

18 Eurasianism: affirming the person in an “era of faith”
   MARTIN BEISSWENGER
Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Afterword: On persons as open-ended ends-in-themselves</th>
<th>ix</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(the view from two novelists and two critics)</td>
<td>381</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CARYL EMERSON</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bibliography</td>
<td>391</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Index</td>
<td>406</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CONTRIBUTORS

MARTIN BEISSWENGER recently received his Ph.D. in history at the University of Notre Dame, where he is at present Sorin Postdoctoral Fellow. His dissertation, written under the direction of Gary Hamburg, is a study of P.N. Savitskii and Eurasianism. His publications include *Petr Nikolaevich Savitskii (1895–1968): A Bibliography of his Published Works* (2008) and several articles.

ROBERT BIRD is Associate Professor in the Departments of Slavic Languages and Literatures and Cinema and Media Studies at the University of Chicago. He is the author of *The Russian Prospero: The Creative Universe of Viacheslav Ivanov* (2006), translator of Viacheslav Ivanov’s *Selected Essays* (2001), and editor of several works of Russian religious philosophy. Author of two books on film-maker Andrei Tarkovsk, including *Andrei Tarkovsky: Elements of Cinema* (2008), he has also published essays on Russian philosophy, theology, and aesthetic theory.

STEVEN CASSEDY is Professor of Slavic and Comparative Literature and Associate Dean of Graduate Studies at the University of California at San Diego. His books include *Flight from Eden: The Origins of Modern Literary Criticism and Theory* (1990); *To the Other Shore: The Russian Jewish Intellectuals who Came to America* (1997); *Building the Future: Jewish Immigrant Intellectuals and the Making of Tsukunft* (1999); and *Dostoevsky’s Religion* (2005). In addition, he has published many essays in Russian and European intellectual history and philosophy.

CARYL EMERSON is A. Watson Armour III University Professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures at Princeton University, where she chairs the Slavic Department with a co-appointment in Comparative Literature. A translator and critic of Mikhail Bakhtin, she has also published widely on nineteenth-century Russian literature (Pushkin, Dostoevskii, Tolstoi), on the
history and relevance of literary criticism, and on Russian opera and vocal music. Recent projects include *The Cambridge Introduction to Russian Literature* (2008) and the adaptation of Russian literary classics to the Stalinist-era musical stage.

**Stuart Finkel** is Associate Professor of History at the University of Florida. He is the author of *On the Ideological Front: The Russian Intelligentsia and the Making of the Soviet Public Sphere* (2007) and several articles on the Russian intelligentsia and Soviet power. His current project focuses on Ekaterina Peshkova and the “Political Red Cross,” which lobbied on behalf of political prisoners in the Soviet Union during the 1920s and 1930s.

**Victoria S. Frede** is Assistant Professor of History at the University of California, Berkeley. She has published articles on the history of the Russian intelligentsia and is currently completing a book project, *“If God Does Not Exist . . .”: Educated Russians and Unbelief, 1780–1870.*


**Sergey Horujy**, a preeminent Russian philosopher, is Professor at the Institute of Philosophy, Russian Academy of Sciences, and Research Director.
List of contributors

at the Center for Synergetic Anthropology, State University Higher School of Economics, Moscow. His many works include Opyty iz russkoi dukhovnoi traditsii (2005); O starom i novom (2000); K fenomenologii askezy (1998); and Posle pereryva: puti russkoi filosofii (1994).

Judith Deutsch Kornblatt is Professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures at the University of Wisconsin. She is the author of The Cossack Hero in Russian Literature: A Study in Cultural Mythology (1992); Doubly Chosen: Jewish Identity, the Soviet Intelligentsia, and the Russian Orthodox Church (2004); Divine Sophia: The Wisdom Writings of Vladimir Solovyov (2009); and essays on Vladimir Solov’yev and Russian religious philosophy. In addition, she has co-edited Russian Religious Thought (1996).

Patrick Lally Michelson received his Ph.D. in history from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, where he is at present Honorary Associate Fellow at the Center for Russia, East Europe, and Central Asia.

Thomas Nemeth has been an Alexander von Humboldt Fellow and a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Melbourne. He is the author of Gramsci's Philosophy: A Critical Study (1980) and translator of Gustav Shpet’s Appearance and Sense (1991). He has written articles on Russian philosophy for journals and reference works, including a major series of articles on “Kant in Russia.”

Frances Nethercott is Lecturer in Modern History at the University of St. Andrews. Her major publications include Une rencontre philosophique: Bergson en Russie (1907–1917) (1995); Russia’s Plato: Plato and the Platonic Tradition in Russian Education, Science and Ideology, 1840–1930 (2000); and Russian Legal Culture Before and After Communism: Criminal Justice, Politics, and the Public Sphere (2007).

Derek Offord is Professor of Russian Intellectual History in the Department of Russian Studies at the University of Bristol. He is a specialist in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Russian history, thought, and literature. His books include Portraits of Early Russian Liberals: A Study of the Thought of T.N. Granovsky, V.P. Botkin, P.V. Annenkov, A.V. Druzhinin and K.D. Kavelin (1985, 2009); The Russian Revolutionary Movement in the 1880s (1986); and Journeys to a Graveyard: Perceptions of Europe in Classical Russian Travel Writing (2006). He has edited or co-edited four other books and is also the author of two widely used books on the modern Russian language.
List of contributors

RAN D A L A. PO OLE is Associate Professor of History at the College of St. Scholastica. He has translated and edited Problems of Idealism: Essays in Russian Social Philosophy (2003) and written numerous articles and book chapters in Russian intellectual history and philosophy. He is currently completing a book, Autonomy, Dignity, Perfectibility: Idealism and Liberalism in Russia, 1885–1922.

BER NIC E GL AT Z E R ROSENTHAL is Professor of History at Fordham University. Her works in Russian intellectual history include, as author, D.S. Merezhkovsky and the Silver Age: The Development of a Revolutionary Mentality (1975) and New Myth, New World: From Nietzsche to Stalinism (2002); and, as editor and contributor, Nietzsche in Russia (1986); A Revolution of the Spirit: Crisis of Value in Russia, 1890–1924 (1990); Nietzsche and Soviet Culture: Ally and Adversary (1994); and The Occult in Russian and Soviet Culture (1997).

JA M ES P. SCANLAN is Professor Emeritus of Philosophy at The Ohio State University. He has written and edited many books in Russian philosophy, including the three-volume classic Russian Philosophy (1965, 1976); Marxism in the USSR: A Critical Survey of Current Soviet Thought (1986); Russian Thought After Communism: The Recovery of a Philosophical Heritage (1994); and Dostoevsky the Thinker (2002).

PH ILIP J. SWO BODA is Professor of History at Sarah Lawrence College. He has published several articles on Semën Frank and is currently completing a book, Confidence in Being: The Philosophical Odyssey of S.L. Frank.

PAUL VALLIERE is Professor of Religion and McGregor Professor in the Humanities at Butler University, Indianapolis. His books include the major study Modern Russian Theology: Bukharev, Soloviev, Bulgakov – Orthodox Theology in a New Key (2000). He is currently completing a book manuscript on conciliarism in comparative and ecumenical perspective.

AND RZEJ WALICKI is O’Neill Family Professor Emeritus of History at the University of Notre Dame. An eminent historian of ideas, his most important works in English are The Slavophile Controversy: History of a Conservative Utopia in Nineteenth-Century Russian Thought (1975); A History of Russian Thought from the Enlightenment to Marxism (1979); Philosophy and Romantic Nationalism: The Case of Poland (1982); Legal Philosophies of Russian Liberalism (1987); Stanisław Brzozowski and the Polish Beginnings of “Western Marxism” (1989); and Marxism and the Leap to the Kingdom of Freedom: The Rise and Fall of the Communist Utopia (1995).
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This volume was preceded by a research conference on the history of Russian philosophy, held at Claremont McKenna College, in April 2008. Major funding for the conference was provided by Claremont McKenna College, Claremont, California (Gould Center for Humanistic Studies and William F. Podlich Fund) and The College of St. Scholastica, Duluth, Minnesota (Office of the President). The editors are grateful for this financial support and for the honor of working with the distinguished group of scholars whose work constitutes this volume.