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978-0-521-88993-3 - Dostoevsky and the Russian People

Linda Ivanits

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DOSTOEVSKY AND THE RUSSIAN PEOPLE

Russian popular culture and folklore were a central theme in Dostoevsky's work, and folklore imagery permeates his fiction. *Dostoevsky and the Russian People* is the most comprehensive study of the people and folklore in his art to date. Linda Ivanits investigates the integration of Dostoevsky's religious ideas and his use of folklore in his major fiction. She surveys the shifts in Dostoevsky's thinking about the Russian people throughout his life and offers comprehensive studies of the people and folklore in *Crime and Punishment*, *The Idiot*, *The Devils*, and *The Brothers Karamazov*. This important study will illuminate this unexplored aspect of his work, and will be of great interest to scholars and students of Russian and of comparative literature.

LINDA IVANITS is Associate Professor of Russian and Comparative Literature at The Pennsylvania State University.

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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi

Cambridge University Press

The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521889933

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First published 2008

Printed in the United Kingdom at the University Press, Cambridge

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Ivanits, Linda, 1969–

Dostoevsky and the Russian people / Linda Ivanits.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-0-521-88993-3 (hardback)

1. Dostoyevsky, Fyodor, 1821–1881 – Criticism and interpretation.
2. Dostoyevsky, Fyodor, 1821–1881 – Religion.
3. Folklore in literature.
4. Russians in literature.
- I. Title.

PG3328.Z6179 2008

891.73'3 – dc22

2008012863

ISBN 978-0-521-88993-3 hardback

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For Anna, Ellen, and Jeffrey

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[More information](#)*Acknowledgments*

Many colleagues and friends have assisted me over the long years of this book's evolution and I am indebted to all. Tom Beebee, Caryl Emerson, Joseph Hlubik, Michael Naydan, Sherry Roush, and Adrian Wanner looked at parts of the manuscript and offered helpful comments and encouragement. For many fruitful discussions I thank Jim Bailey, Jim Delbel, Père Jacques, Galina Khmelkova, Aleksey Kholodov, and Slava Yastremski. My appreciation also goes to the wonderful scholars and librarians from The Institute of Russian Literature (Pushkin House) and the Museum of Ethnography in St. Petersburg for good talks and invaluable assistance, to the librarians at the University of Illinois Summer Research Laboratory, to the College of Liberal Arts at Penn State for granting me a sabbatical in 1990 and a leave of absence in 1992–93, and to Henry Pisciotta of the Arts and Architecture Library for help with the jacket image. For technical assistance I wish to thank JoElle de Viney, Lynn Seltzer, Pat Lindsay, and Donna Gero. I also wish to express my gratitude to Linda Bree and Maartje Scheltens, my editors at Cambridge University Press, and to their anonymous readers for many helpful suggestions. Finally, I thank my husband Laszlo for agreeing to live with Dostoevsky and me these many years.

Research for this book was supported in part by a grant from the International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX) with funds provided by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the United States Information Agency and by a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship for University Teachers. Portions of Chapter 2 appeared as "The Other Lazarus in *Crime and Punishment*," *Russian Review*, 61 (2002), 341–57.

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The Library of Congress system of transliteration will be used for Russian items throughout. Except for Russian terms and titles in parentheses, this system will be modified slightly within the body of the text for the ease of readers who do not know Russian. Soft and hard signs will be removed (“Raskolnikov,” rather than “Raskol’nikov”); final “yi” or “ii” will be rendered “y” (“Dostoevsky” rather than “Dostoevskii”), and initial “ia” and “iu” will be rendered “ya” and “yu” (“Yakushkin” rather than “Iakushkin”).

Unless otherwise indicated, all references to Dostoevsky’s works and letters will be to the Academy Edition prepared by G. M. Fridlender *et al.*: F. M. Dostoevskii, *Polnoe sobranie sochinenii v tridsati tomakh* (Leningrad: Nauka, 1972–90). Most notations will be indicated in the text by volume number and page (14: 69) or, in the case of the final three double volumes, by volume, book, and page (28, 2: 33); in the notes they will be indicated by PSS, volume, and page (PSS 14: 69). Translations are my own unless noted otherwise.

For the most part, dates for Dostoevsky’s life and letters are given according to the Julian calendar (“Old Style”). For letters to Russia from Europe both the Old and the New Styles (Gregorian calendar) are indicated (Letter to A. N. Maikov of August 16/28, 1867). For entries in the *Notebooks* occurring while Dostoevsky was in Europe, unless otherwise indicated, I use New Style in conformity with his practice.

Biblical quotations are from the New English Bible and indicated by book, chapter, and verse (John 12: 24).