



War and Peace: Original Version

By Leo Tolstoy

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A grand, romantic saga of two noble Russian families and a multitude of lives swept up in the violent tumult of the Napoleonic Wars, Leo Tolstoy's *War and Peace* is considered one of the preeminent literary works of all time. Tolstoy originally completed this novel in 1866, but it was not until years later—after the author had doubled the book's length with philosophical and historical meditations—that the great novel was published. More than half a century in the making, the result of extraordinary dedication and pains-taking research, here is Tolstoy's original version of this timeless classic, which never made it into print during the author's lifetime.

Now readers can enjoy the epic and unforgettable story as the novelist originally intended—with its subtly different characters, dialogue, and ending—and experience anew the breathtaking masterpiece that has inspired love and devotion for generations.

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Editorial Review

Review

'The greatest of all novelists -- for what else can we call the author of War and Peace?' Virginia Woolf 'The pure narrative power of Tolstoy's work is unequalled. To read him is to find one's way home, to everything within us that is fundamental and sane.' Thomas Mann 'What an artist and what a psychologist! It seems to me there are some passages worthy of Shakespeare. I found myself crying out in admiration while reading.' Gustave Flaubert 'There remains the greatest of all novelists -- for what else can we call the author of War and Peace? [Tolstoy's] senses, his intellect, are acute, powerful and well-nourished! Nothing seems to escape him. Nothing glances off him unrecorded! Every twig, every feather sticks to his magnet. He notices the blue or red of a child's frock; the way a horse shifts its tail; the sound of a cough; the action of a man trying to put his hands into pockets that have been sewn up. And what his infallible eye reports of a cough or a trick of the hands his infallible brain refers to something hidden in the character, so that we know his people, not only by the way they love and their views on politics and the immortality of the soul, but also by the way they sneeze and choke. We feel that we have been set on a mountaintop and had a telescope put into our hands. Everything is astonishingly clear and absolutely sharp.' Virginia Woolf

About the Author

Leo Tolstoy (1828-1910) is the author of *War and Peace*, *Anna Karenina*, *The Death of Ivan Ilyich*, *Family Happiness*, and other classics of Russian literature.

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