

LET on TOLSTOY, written on Tolstoy's 80th birthday, published in 1907.

"Mikula Seljgnovich, peasant hero of the folk epic, says of himself: 'I am the beloved of raw mother earth.' Such is the religious myth of Russian Populism WHICH RULED FOR DECADES OVER THE MINDS OF THE RUS. INTELLECTUALS.

WAR & PEACE, written in 1867-69, rewritten 7 times.

"Perhaps what is most astounding in this titan's creativeness is that the artist permits neither himself nor the reader to become attached to any individual character... But from behind this general ~~indifferent~~ indifferent attentiveness to individual parts there rises a mighty apotheosis of the whole, where everything breathes the life of inner necessity & harmony... (aesthetic pantheism) for which there is neither beauty nor ugliness, neither the great nor the small, because it holds as the great & beautiful only the whole of life."

"TOLSTOY is just as far removed from Turgenev who is lyrical, rhapsodic, scintillating & aware of the beauty of his language as he is from Dostoevsky's tongue, so sharp, so choked-up & pock-marked."

(DOSTOYEVSKY once wrote, having Tolstoy, singer of the perfected form in mind: "He would not be able to write in any other way except historically, for the beautiful type no longer exists in our own day.")

"Tolstoy's phil. resembles Chinese painting. Ideas of entirely different epochs are not located in perspective but arranged on the one & the same plane." "He has preserved intact PRICELESS TALENT FOR MORAL INDIGNATION."