

DOSTOEVSKY'S THE IDIOT

A Critical Companion
Edited by Liza Knapp

NORTHWESTERN / AATSEEL CRITICAL COMPANIONS
TO RUSSIAN LITERATURE

Dostoevskys The Idiot A Critical Companion

Brain R. Johnson



Dostoevsky's The Idiot A Critical Companion:

Dostoevsky's The Idiot Liza Knapp, 1998 This book is designed to guide readers through Dostoevsky's *The Idiot* first published in 1869 and generally considered to be his most mysterious and confusing work *Dostoevsky's The Devils* William J. Leatherbarrow, 1999 The most openly political of Dostoevsky's four major novels *The Devils* has left literary scholars intrigued with its difficult narrative structure which veers back and forth between first and third person and fascinated by the political overtones and social commentary it includes For these reasons *The Devils* often anchors courses on Dostoevsky's works This critical companion contains essays that shed light on both the tricky literary structure of the novel as well as its social and political components **Fyodor Dostoevsky** Alberto Castelli, 2026-01-22 This volume offers a philosophical and literary exploration of Dostoevsky's humanism with a particular focus on his ethical and aesthetic reflections on human nature Rather than approaching Dostoevsky through the lens of national character or the so called Russian spirit this book engages in a sustained dialogue with his work to illuminate the moral and psychological complexities of the human soul Emphasizing the intimate and often unsettling terrain of interior life the author contends that Dostoevsky's literature invites readers to confront their own beliefs values and existential commitments Structured as a series of interlinked essays the book reads selected Dostoevskian texts through a comparative framework acknowledging both the richness of his literary output and the vast body of critical commentary surrounding it The approach is intentionally conversational rather than conclusive welcoming ambiguity contradiction and unresolved tensions In this spirit the volume traces Dostoevsky's pursuit of the sublime where darkness and beauty coexist in the restless drama of human consciousness

Dostoevsky's Idiot, 2008 **Funny Dostoevsky** Lynn Ellen Patyk, Irina Erman, 2024-06-13 Tapping into the emergence of scholarly comedy studies since the 2000s this collection brings new perspectives to bear on the Dostoevskian light side Funny Dostoevsky demonstrates how and why Dostoevsky is one of the most humorous 19th century authors even as he plumbs the depths of the human psyche and the darkest facets of European modernity The authors go beyond the more traditional categories of humor such as satire parody and the carnivalesque to apply unique lenses to their readings of Dostoevsky These include cinematic slapstick and the body in *Crime and Punishment* the affective turn and hilarious and deadly impatience in *Demons* and ontological jokes in *Notes from Underground* and *The Idiot* The authors coincidentally all women including some of the most established scholars in the field alongside up and comers address gender and the marginalization of comedy culminating in a chapter on Dostoevsky's funny and furious women and explore the intersections of gender and humor in literary and culture studies Funny Dostoevsky applies some of the latest findings on humor and laughter to his writing while comparative chapters bring Dostoevsky's humor into conjunction with other popular works such as Chaplin's *Modern Times* and Lin Manuel Miranda's *Hamilton* Written with a verve and wit that Dostoevsky would appreciate this boldly original volume illuminates how humor and comedy in his works operate as vehicles of deconstruction

pleasure play and transcendence **The Divine Face in Four Writers** Maurice Hunt,2015-12-17 An important contribution to studies in literature and religion The Divine Face in Four Writers traces the influence of Christian and Classical prototypes in ideas and depictions of the divine face and the centrality of facial expressions in characterization in the works of William Shakespeare Fyodor Dostoyevsky Hermann Hesse and C S Lewis Maurice Hunt explores both the human yearning to see the divine face from post Apostolic time to the 20th century as reflected in religion myth and literature by writers such as Augustine Shakespeare Hardy and Dostoyevsky as well as the significance of the hidden divine face in writings by Spenser Milton Hesse and Lewis A final coda briefly detailing Emmanuel Levinas s system of ethics based on the human face and its encounters with other faces allows Hunt to focus on specific moments in the writings of the four major writers discussed that have particular ethical value **Reader as Accomplice** Alexander Spektor,2020-10-15 Reader as Accomplice Narrative Ethics in Dostoevsky and Nabokov argues that Fyodor Dostoevsky and Vladimir Nabokov seek to affect the moral imagination of their readers by linking morally laden plots to the ethical questions raised by narrative fiction at the formal level By doing so these two authors ask us to consider and respond to the ethical demands that narrative acts of representation and interpretation place on authors and readers Using the lens of narrative ethics Alexander Spektor brings to light the important previously unexplored correspondences between Dostoevsky and Nabokov Ultimately he argues for a productive comparison of how each writer investigates the ethical costs of narrating oneself and others He also explores the power dynamics between author character narrator and reader In his readings of such texts as The Meek One and The Idiot by Dostoevsky and Bend Sinister and Despair by Nabokov Spektor demonstrates that these authors incite the reader s sense of ethics by exposing the risks but also the possibilities of narrative fiction **Multi-Mediated Dostoevsky** Alexander Burry,2011-01-17 Originally presented as the author s thesis Ph D Northwestern University 2001 **Aesthetic and Philosophical Reflections on Mood** Birgit Breidenbach,2020-04-19 This study explores the concept of Stimmung in literary and philosophical texts of the modern age Signifying both mood and attunement Stimmung speaks to the categories of affective experience and aesthetic design alike The study locates itself in the nexus between discourses on modernity existentialism and aesthetics and uncovers the pivotal role of Stimmung in 19th and 20th century European narrative fiction and continental philosophy The study first explores the philosophical and aesthetic origins and implications of Stimmung to then discuss its role in the narrative fiction of three key authors of modern literature Fyodor Dostoevsky Samuel Beckett and Thomas Bernhard These readings demonstrate a significant shift towards an aesthetic of affective intensity and immediacy in which the experience of the reading process takes centre stage as each author develops an aesthetic philosophy of Stimmung in their own right Through its focus on the concept of Stimmung the study thus unearths a fundamental link between existentialist concerns and narrative practice in modern literature **The Image of Christ in Russian Literature** John Givens,2018-05-29 Vladimir Nabokov complained about the number of Dostoevsky s characters sinning their way to Jesus In

truth Christ is an elusive figure not only in Dostoevsky's novels but in Russian literature as a whole The rise of the historical critical method of biblical criticism in the nineteenth century and the growth of secularism it stimulated made an earnest affirmation of Jesus in literature highly problematic If they affirmed Jesus too directly writers paradoxically risked diminishing him either by deploying faith explanations that no longer persuade in an age of skepticism or by reducing Christ to a mere argument in an ideological dispute The writers at the heart of this study understood that to reimage Christ for their age they had to make him known through indirect even negative ways lest what they say about him be mistaken for cliché doctrine or naïve apologetics The Christology of Dostoevsky Leo Tolstoy Mikhail Bulgakov and Boris Pasternak is thus apophatic because they deploy negative formulations saying what God is not in their writings about Jesus Professions of atheism in Dostoevsky and Tolstoy's non-divine Jesus are but separate negative paths toward truer discernment of Christ This first study in English of the image of Christ in Russian literature highlights the importance of apophaticism as a theological practice and a literary method in understanding the Russian Christ It also emphasizes the importance of skepticism in Russian literary attitudes toward Jesus on the part of writers whose private crucibles of doubt produced some of the most provocative and enduring images of Christ in world literature This important study will appeal to scholars and students of Orthodox Christianity and Russian literature as well as educated general readers interested in religion and nineteenth century Russian novels *The Art of Dostoevsky's Falling Sick* Brain R. Johnson, 2008 **Dostoevsky Studies**, 2005

Dostoevsky on the Threshold of Other Worlds Malcolm V. Jones, 2006 A collection of essays presenting a tribute to the greatly respected Dostoevsky scholar Professor Malcolm V Jones Mapping the Feminine Hilde Hoogenboom, Catharine Theimer Nepomnyashchy, Irina Reyfman, 2008 *GRADIVA JOURNAL OF CONTEMPORARY THEORY AND PRACTICE*, 2000 *Stranded on the Shoals of Reason?* Kerry Dunne, 2006 Exotic Moscow Under Western Eyes Irene Masing-Delic, 2009 This collection of essays on Turgenev Goncharov Conrad Dostoevsky Blok Briusov Gor'kii Pasternak and Nabokov represents diverse voices but is also unified One invariant is the recurring distinction between culture and civilization and the vision of Russia as the bearer of culture because it is barbaric Another stance advocates the synthesis of sense and sensibility and the vision of Apollo and Dionysus creating a civilized culture together Those voices that delight in the artificiality of civilization are complemented by those apprehensive of the dangers in barbarism This collection thus adds new perspectives to the much debated opposition of vital Russia and a declining West offering novel interpretations of classics from Oblomov to Lolita and The Idiot to Doctor Zhivago **Film and Philosophy**, 1996

Reference Guide to World Literature Tom Pendergast, 2003 Covers writers from the ancient Greeks to 20th century authors Includes biographical bibliographical entries on nearly 500 writers and approximately 550 entries focusing on significant works of world literature Each author entry provides a detailed overview of the writer's life and works Work entries cover a particular piece of world literature in detail *Cumulated Index to the Books*, 1999

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Table of Contents Dostoevskys The Idiot A Critical Companion

1. Understanding the eBook Dostoevskys The Idiot A Critical Companion
 - The Rise of Digital Reading Dostoevskys The Idiot A Critical Companion
 - Advantages of eBooks Over Traditional Books
2. Identifying Dostoevskys The Idiot A Critical Companion
 - Exploring Different Genres
 - Considering Fiction vs. Non-Fiction
 - Determining Your Reading Goals
3. Choosing the Right eBook Platform
 - Popular eBook Platforms
 - Features to Look for in an Dostoevskys The Idiot A Critical Companion
 - User-Friendly Interface
4. Exploring eBook Recommendations from Dostoevskys The Idiot A Critical Companion
 - Personalized Recommendations
 - Dostoevskys The Idiot A Critical Companion User Reviews and Ratings
 - Dostoevskys The Idiot A Critical Companion and Bestseller Lists
5. Accessing Dostoevskys The Idiot A Critical Companion Free and Paid eBooks
 - Dostoevskys The Idiot A Critical Companion Public Domain eBooks

- Dostoevskys The Idiot A Critical Companion eBook Subscription Services
- Dostoevskys The Idiot A Critical Companion Budget-Friendly Options
- 6. Navigating Dostoevskys The Idiot A Critical Companion eBook Formats
 - ePub, PDF, MOBI, and More
 - Dostoevskys The Idiot A Critical Companion Compatibility with Devices
 - Dostoevskys The Idiot A Critical Companion Enhanced eBook Features
- 7. Enhancing Your Reading Experience
 - Adjustable Fonts and Text Sizes of Dostoevskys The Idiot A Critical Companion
 - Highlighting and Note-Taking Dostoevskys The Idiot A Critical Companion
 - Interactive Elements Dostoevskys The Idiot A Critical Companion
- 8. Staying Engaged with Dostoevskys The Idiot A Critical Companion
 - Joining Online Reading Communities
 - Participating in Virtual Book Clubs
 - Following Authors and Publishers Dostoevskys The Idiot A Critical Companion
- 9. Balancing eBooks and Physical Books Dostoevskys The Idiot A Critical Companion
 - Benefits of a Digital Library
 - Creating a Diverse Reading Collection Dostoevskys The Idiot A Critical Companion
- 10. Overcoming Reading Challenges
 - Dealing with Digital Eye Strain
 - Minimizing Distractions
 - Managing Screen Time
- 11. Cultivating a Reading Routine Dostoevskys The Idiot A Critical Companion
 - Setting Reading Goals Dostoevskys The Idiot A Critical Companion
 - Carving Out Dedicated Reading Time
- 12. Sourcing Reliable Information of Dostoevskys The Idiot A Critical Companion
 - Fact-Checking eBook Content of Dostoevskys The Idiot A Critical Companion
 - Distinguishing Credible Sources
- 13. Promoting Lifelong Learning
 - Utilizing eBooks for Skill Development
 - Exploring Educational eBooks

14. Embracing eBook Trends

- Integration of Multimedia Elements
- Interactive and Gamified eBooks

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