

confession." Metaphor apparently unites everything, and logic is only another kind of metaphor, and a restrictive one at that. Or so the reasoning of today seems to go. I don't know quite what to make of the Kopper piece. It contains some of the best analysis of the three tales I have read, and his insights as to how sex is connected with other matters (he calls this displacements) such as money, estate management, health is excellent. He has, too, by far the most sophisticated sense of critical method, and is doubtlessly trying to digest what is best in the critical languages of our time. I suspect we will hear a great deal more from him.

Edward Wasiolek, University of Chicago

---

Alexander Fodor, A Quest for a Non-Violent Russia: The Partnership of Leo Tolstoy and Vladimir Chertkov. Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 1989. 232 pp.

With the ambitious title, "In Quest for a Non-Violent Russia," this book sets out to rescue from oblivion the wealthy aristocrat Chertkov, Tolstoy's closest ally during the last years of his life. For twenty seven years Tolstoy and Chertkov were inseparable correspondents, who exchanged 928 letters and telegrams, the contents of which take up at least five impressive volumes of Tolstoy's Complete Works. A tireless advocate of Tolstoy's religious teachings, Chertkov engaged in a notorious feud with Tolstoy's wife over which one of them would be responsible for ensuring the writer's place in history. Influential and intimate as Chertkov was in Tolstoy's life, he has only once previously been considered important enough for a special study, and that was in a book by M. V. Muratov on the correspondence between Tolstoy and Chertkov, published in the Soviet Union in 1934. A. Fodor makes an important attempt to reconcile many unanswered questions and controversies about Chertkov. He deals with his subject in an intriguing historical framework, claiming, that Chertkov, a loyalist to the autocracy, sought an alliance with Tolstoy in order to prevent the coming upheaval of the revolution by advocating Tolstoy's doctrine of non-violence. As leader of the Tolstoyans, he aspired to make them "a meaningful force in the political arena of the country."

What is obviously more tempting and ultimately more absorbing for the author is the biography of Chertkov himself. The book is divided into five broadly titled chapters that pursue many convergent themes: "The Last Rally," "Chertkov Meets Tolstoy," "The Rise of Chertkov," "Tolstoy's Last Years" and "Chertkov After Tolstoy's Death." Regrettably, confined by a biographical approach, the author presents these topics as a collection of facts without substantial development of his main argument. Chertkov "inherited" the leadership of the Evangelical movement of the Russian aristocracy (regarded by the author as a precursor to the Tolstoyan movement) through his family ties: an

influential mother and an uncle, Colonel Vasily Pashkov, both active followers of Lord Radstock, the founder of the Evangelical movement in England. The description of the ambiguous and complex Lord Radstock, a preacher, who traveled to Russia on an "intelligence gathering" mission, competes to achieve its rightful place among generalizations on the impact of the French Revolution on each of the Russian monarchs and an unnecessarily detailed account of the December 1825 uprising, including the events on Senate Square.

While such historical accounts might be informative for a novice, a person familiar with Russian history would wish some issues had been explored in more depth. Why, for instance, was Tolstoy, who regarded with scepticism an evangelical movement led by the aristocracy, in the author's opinion "more suited than anyone else in Russia to be its leader," and why was he ultimately Chertkov's choice for an ally? The author never discusses what the two really shared in their religious and ethical views or what the theory of "non-violence" meant for either of them. The author is aware that Chertkov's biographical commentary in volume 85 of Tolstoy's Complete Works had been modified to accommodate Soviet political requirements for him as the editor-in-chief of such an important edition. His own approach, however, tends to overstress what, in his opinion, has been left out. He wants to prove that Chertkov was not "a determined foe to the tsars," but was a loyalist belonging to the "highest stratum of the Russian aristocracy" with his mother's enormous wealth and court connections behind him. His attention is shifted more towards Chertkov's "illustrious lineage," and then towards Chertkov's activities in the "Posrednik" publishing house, a major project in which Tolstoy participated; he does not pursue his main argument by analyzing how effective "Posrednik" publications were in "neutralizing" revolutionary ideas and writings. The correspondence between Chertkov and Tolstoy is filled with references to titles and authors they chose for publication, an important factor in assessing their effectiveness in influencing the discourse of the revolutionaries. The idea of "class ties" between influential Chertkov and Tolstoy allows A. Fodor to challenge the view that Tolstoy was really dangerous to the authorities. The author is convinced that "with Chertkov on his side, Tolstoy seemed immune to police action." Unfortunately, the authorities' motives for looking the other way are left unexplored, as are other interesting insights, for example, the role of Chertkov's mother's money in the success of his publishing business; this falls short of any fresh interpretation outside the conventional statements about Mme. Chertkov's "powerful grip" over her son and her "ever-presence" for Tolstoy.

The third chapter, "The Rise of Chertkov," depicting Chertkov eleven years in England, is the best. The author sheds new light on Chertkov's involvement with the Dukhobors, suggesting that association with their cause helped Chertkov to be conveniently "exiled" to England to pursue his publishing business. The author convincingly argues how ruthless and manipulative Chertkov was with his potential rivals in order to get full control over publications of Tolstoy's works abroad. This reviewer found the following insight intriguing: having learnt

that John Kentworthy, an English writer and an honorary pastor of the Croyden Brotherhood Church, founded in England on Tolstoy's teachings, was trying to get the rights to publish Tolstoy's works, Chertkov "saw to it" that the colony would be left "virtually bankrupt," after donating a large sum of money to help the departure of the Dukhobors from Russia. Ironically, the impartial stance the author tries to maintain with respect to his findings seems to contradict very little the image of Chertkov as a manipulator. The fourth chapter, "Tolstoy's Last Years," presents a familiar picture of Chertkov as a grand conductor, orchestrating Tolstoy's every move and securing his every utterance for posterity through the network of "hand-picked" secretary-biographers. The feud between Chertkov and Tolstoy's wife over Tolstoy's will, painstakingly described with restraint and utmost care not to take sides (a pitfall of too many biographers) offers very little fresh interpretation in relation to the "quest for non-violence." The last chapter attempts to weave together the tapestry of facts about Chertkov's activities from 1910 until his death: Tolstoyans' attitudes towards the First World War, Chertkov's activities to release conscientious objectors from service in the Red Army, his role in publishing Tolstoy's Complete Works, to name but a few. This is accomplished at the expense of basic conclusions and deprives the book of the coherent argument that one would hope to find, even when historical issues are included for the purpose of context.

The book exposes an important topic for further research, because Chertkov still emerges an enigma from the plethora of facts about him, the presentation of which is the author's most significant achievement. In his "Preface" the author admits that "there must be unavoidable gaps which future researchers will have to fill." He succeeds in arousing this curiosity by offering a full-length study devoted to the relationship between Tolstoy and Chertkov.

Zinaida Vaganova, University of Pennsylvania