Late and Post-Soviet Russian Literature: A Reader
Edited by Mark Lipovetsky & Lisa Wakamiya

Series: Cultural Syllabus
ISBN: 9781936235407 (cloth) / 9781618113832 (paper)
Price: $49.00 USD / $29.00 USD
Pages: 384 pp.
Publication Date: June 2014

Summary:

Late and Post-Soviet Russian Literature: A Reader is an introduction to the most important works of Russian literature of the last fifty years. Organized both chronologically and thematically, it is a structured presentation of significant cultural developments and literary works intended for wide use in undergraduate courses on Russian literature and culture. Each chapter includes a selection of literary texts, excerpts from the Russian press, and scholarly writings that help to elucidate the relationship between art, its historical and cultural contexts, and its reception. Much of the reader’s contents will appear in English translation for the first time. At present, no anthology of late- and post-Soviet writing exists. Late- and Post-Soviet Russian Literature: A Reader addresses this absence, and brings university curricula in Russian literature, culture, history, and area studies into the twenty-first century.

About the Editors:

Mark Lipovetsky (Ph.D. Ural State University, 1989) is a professor in the Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures and joint faculty member at the Comparative Literature Program at the University of Boulder. His most recent book, Paralogies: The Transformations of (Post) Modern Discourse in Russian Culture of the 1920s-2000s (Moscow: Novoe Literaturnoe Obozrenie), was published in 2008.

Lisa Ryoko Wakamiya is Associate Professor of Slavic in the Department of Modern Languages and Linguistics at Florida State University. She is the author of Locating Exiled Writers in Contemporary Russian Literature (2009).

Praise for Late and Post-Soviet Russian Literature:

“Though its primary purpose, wonderfully fulfilled, is to serve as a core text for those teaching and studying contemporary Russian history, politics, culture, society and of course literature, this volume should be required reading for anyone wishing to understand and experience vicariously the shock-therapy of Russia’s recent identity crises. Primary texts by a number of the best-known and most important contemporary prose writers and poets (Petrushevskaya, Sorokin, Bykov, Rubinshtein, Fanailova and others) are supplemented by critical studies by a number of leading scholars of the latest instantiations of some of Russia’s “accursed questions”. An exhilarating, sometimes exhausting guide to the passionate intensities and terrible beauties of post-Soviet culture.” —Andrew Reynolds, University of Wisconsin

“This long-needed volume sets out an ambitious goal for itself—‘to capture the multiple voices and meanings that have emerged in the last several decades of cultural change in Russia’—and fulfills it in innovative ways. Its combination of primary and secondary sources, its editors’ skilled selection of authors and texts, and its impressive topical and chronological scope should make this reader an indispensable resource for students, teachers, and scholars of contemporary Russian culture.” —Seth Graham, University College London
CONTENTS

Acknowledgments ...8
Introduction ...10

Part 1. Rethinking Identities ...18

Excerpts from Dehexing Sex,
by Helena Goscilo ...26
  Perestroika or Domostroika?:
    The Construction of Womanhood under Glasnost ...26
    Inscribing the Female Body in Women’s Fiction:
      Stigmata and Stimulation ...43

Liudmilla Petrushevskaya ...51
  Hygiene ...53
  The New Robinson Crusoes:
    A Chronicle of the End of the Twentieth Century ...63
    The Fountain House ...75

Vera Pavlova ...83
  From If There is Something to Desire ...84

Linor Goralik ...85
  They Talk 86

Slava Mogutin ...98
  Invitation to a Beheading ...99
  My First Man: Sentimental Vomit ...114
  Dreams Come True: Porn ...117
  We Were All Dying of the Same Diseases ...119
  The Triumph of the Family ...121
  The Death of Misha Beautiful ...123

Oksana Robski ...133
  Excerpts from “Glamour a’la Oksana Robski,”
    by Tatiana Mikhailova ...134

Part 2. “Little Terror” and Traumatic Writing ...147

Excerpts from “In the State of Post-Soviet Aphasia:
  Symbolic Development in Contemporary Russia,”
  by Serguei Oushakine ...152

Excerpts from “Stories of the Undead in the Land of the Unburied:
  Magical Historicism in Contemporary Russian Fiction,”
  by Alexander Etkind ...171

Lev Rubinshtein 187
  Smoke of the Fatherland, or a Filter Gulag ...188

Evgeny Grishkovets ...191
  How I Ate a Dog (excerpts) ...192

For more information, please visit our website at www.academicstudiespress.com
or email us at press@academicstudiespress.com.
Elena Fanailova ...207
From The Russian Version ...208
"...Again they’re off for their Afghanistan..." ...208
Lena, or the Poet and the People ...212

The Presnyakov Brothers ...218
Terrorism (excerpts) ...219

Andrei Rodionov ...250
“A beauty and junkie with long legs...” ...251
“Once a month, he fought or got beat up...” ...252

Excerpts from Overkill: Sex and Violence in Russian Popular Culture,
by Eliot Borenstein ...254
Overkill: Bespredel and Gratuitous Violence ...254
Honor among Thieves ...260

Part 3. Writing Politics ...270

Vladimir Sorokin ...276
“Russia is Slipping Back into an Authoritarian Empire”:
Spiegel Interview with Vladimir Sorokin ...278
Petrushka ...285

Victor Pelevin ...296
Critical Responses to Generation ‘P’ (Homo Zapiens, 1999) ...298
Review of Generation ‘P’,
by Gregory Freidin ...298
Russian Literary Postmodernity in the 1990s,
by Mark Lipovetsky ...303
Survival of the Catchiest: Memes and Postmodern Russia,
by Eliot Borenstein ...307

Eduard Limonov ...311
A Heroic Attitude to Life ...313

Aleksandr Prokhanov ...317
Mister Hexogen (excerpts) ...318
Excerpts from “The Legitimization of Ultra-Right Discourse
in Contemporary Russian Literature,”
by Ilya Kukulin ...337

Sergei Lukyanenko ...348
The Anti-Matrix (Take the Blue Pill),
by Aleksandr Tarasov ...349

Boris Akunin ...358
Excerpts from “A Country Resembling Russia”:
The Use of History in Boris Akunin’s Detective Novels,
by Elena V. Baraban ...360

Dmitrii Bykov ...373
The Fall ...374