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Russia possesses one of the richest and most admired literatures of Europe, reaching back to the eleventh century. A History of Russian Literature provides a comprehensive account of Russian writing from its earliest origins in the monastic works of Kiev up to the present day. The narrative strikes a balance between extensive overview and in-depth treatment. Parts are organized thematically in chapters, with a number of keywords focusing on important literary concepts that can serve as connecting motifs, and case studies, detailed discussions of writers, institutions, and texts that take the reader up close. Rich illustrations exemplify the interrelation between word and image.

The History addresses major continuities and discontinuities in the history of Russian literature across all periods, and in particular brings out meta-historical features that contribute to the notion of national literature. This volume remaps Russia’s literary history and constructs a narrative that pursues key concepts, rather more than individual authorial careers. This history takes us through the ways in which modern and post-modern writers interweave in Russian literature, and studies the development of tradition as a relationship between major and minor genres, historical events and literary politics, literary theory and literary innovation.
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