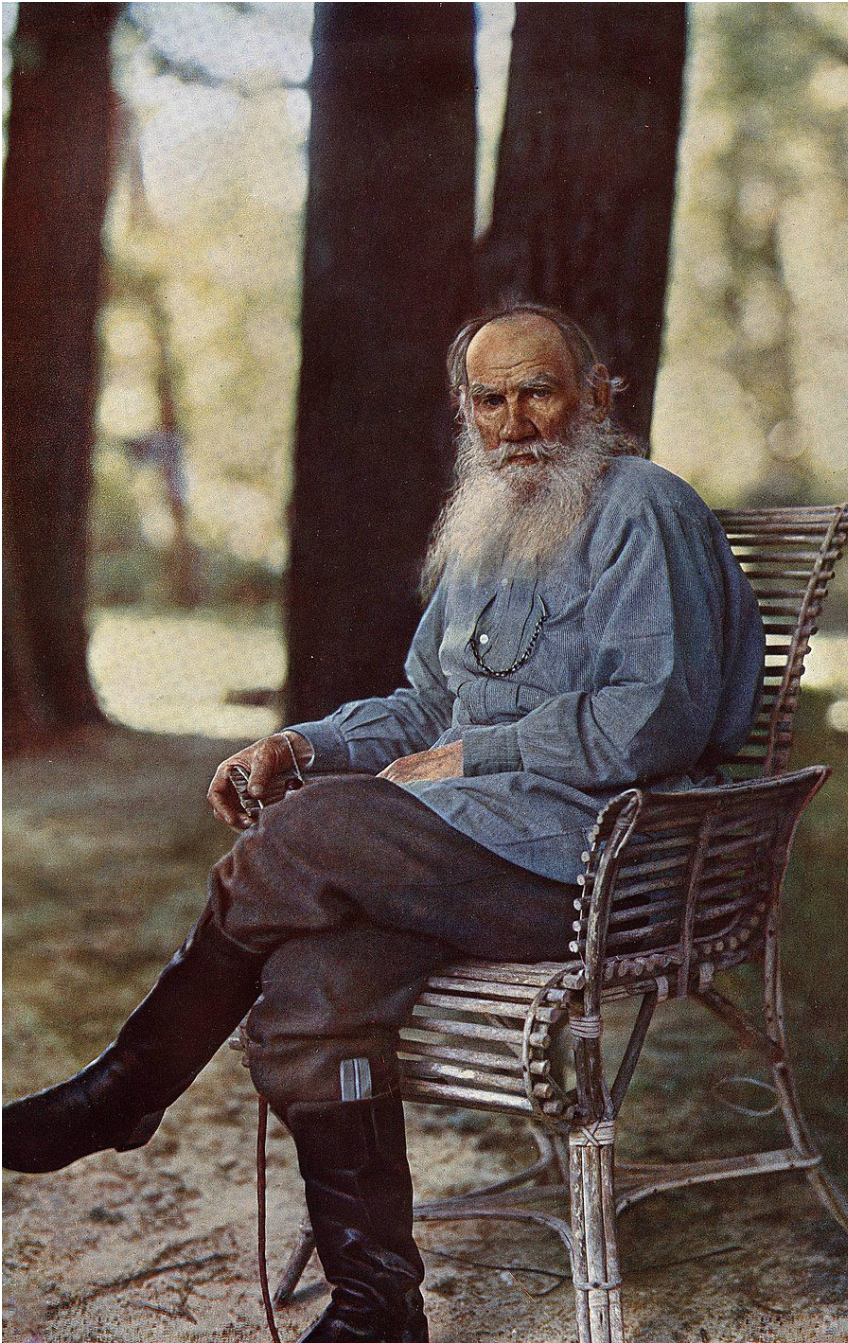




LEV NIKOLAEVICH TOLSTOI

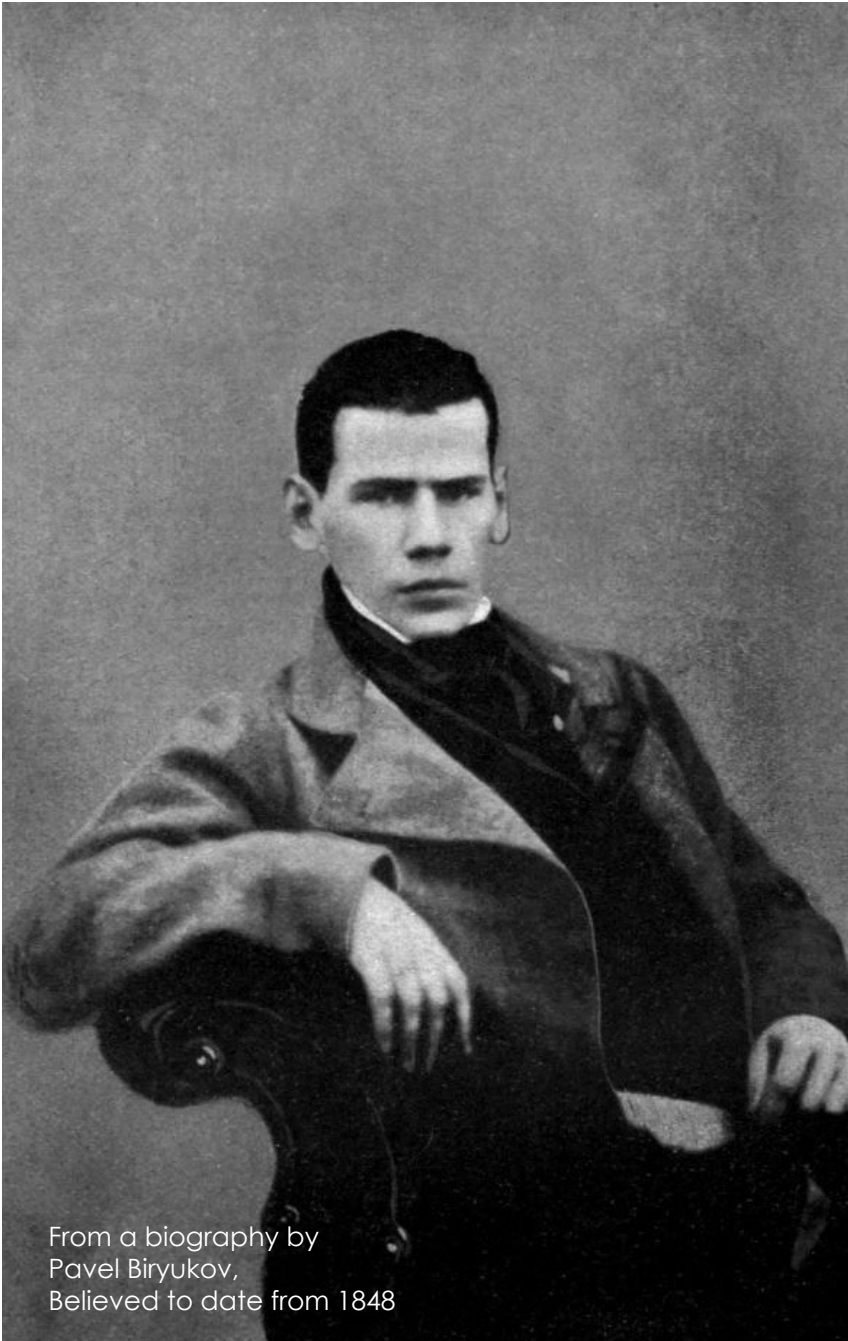
Readings in Russian Literature: The Nineteenth Century
IIIT Hyderabad
March 23, 2023



Lev Nikolaevich Tolstoy (1828-1910)

- Count Lev Tolstoy / Leo Tolstoy
- Born at Yasnaya Polyana (4000 acres) near Moscow
- Belonged to an aristocratic family that dated back to the 14th cent.; ancestor made a Count by Peter I
- Father fought in the Patriotic War of 1812; mother a princess from the Volkonsky family
- Lost both his parents in childhood
- An indifferent student, dropped out of Kazan University
- Lived the life of the leisurely elite; also began to write

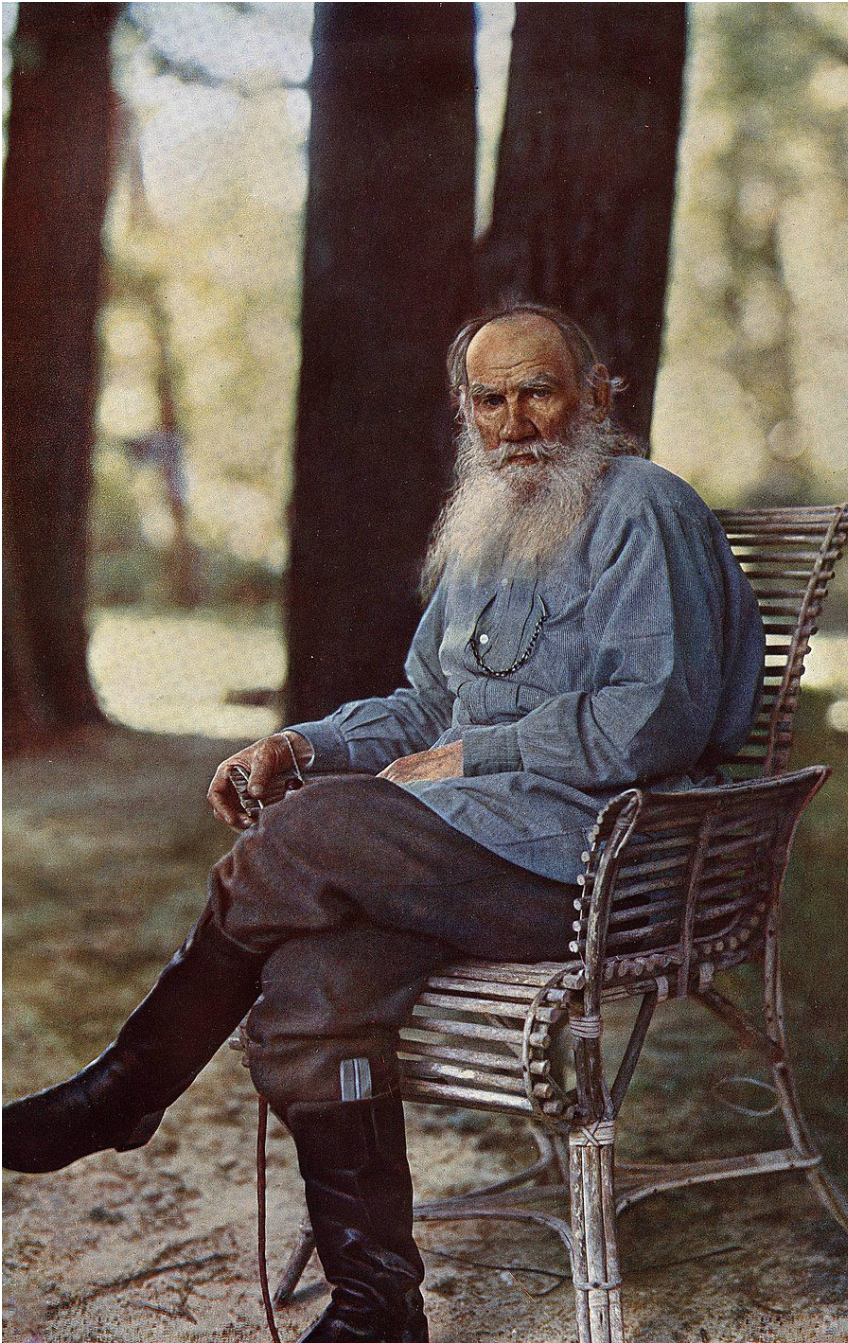
Tolstoy at Yasnaya Polyana, May 23, 1908
(believed to be the first colour portrait in Russia)
Sergey Prokudin-Gorsky
Lithograph Print



From a biography by
Pavel Biryukov,
Believed to date from 1848

Lev Nikolaevich Tolstoy (1828-1910)

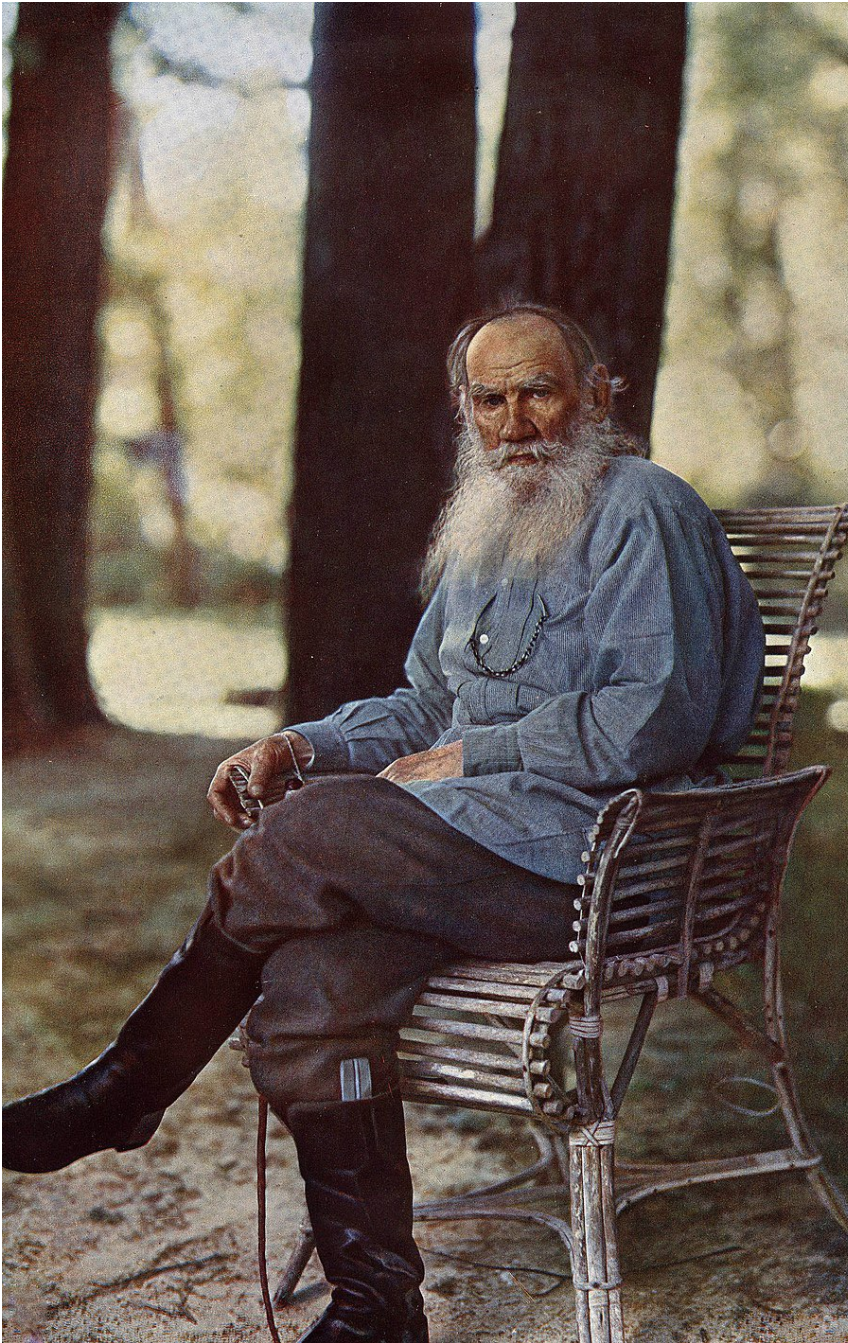
- Having run up gambling debts, enlists in the army
- Serves in important military conflicts; shocked by brutality, swears by non-violence and refuses to serve the state in future
- Marries Sofya Andreevna Behrs; they have thirteen children, eight of whom survive
- Sofya, a diarist, copies and edits her husband's work, manages his finances
- In later life, Tolstoy experiences a profound moral crisis and spiritual awakening; he returns to basic Christian values and ethics
- Wants to renounce his wealth and assets, including copyrights to his works



Lev Nikolaevich Tolstoy (1828-1910)

- *War and Peace* (1869)
- *Anna Karenina* (1877)
- *Resurrection* (1899)
- *Sevastopol Sketches* (1855-6)
- *The Death of Ivan Ilyich* (1886)
- *The Kreutzer Sonata* (1889)
- *Hadji Murat* (1912; posthumous)

...



Lev Nikolaevich Tolstoy (1828-1910)

“The young woman, greatly surprised on hearing this, turned and looked long and seriously at the hen, which was sitting with closed eyes beside the rooster in the chimney-corner. She asked the hen where it laid the egg. At the sound of her voice it simply opened and closed its eyes, but could make no answer.”