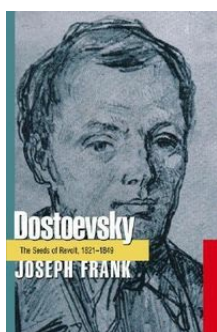


DOSTOEVSKY: THE SEEDS OF REVOLT, 1821-1849

The term "biography" seems insufficiently capacious to describe the singular achievement of Joseph Frank's five-volume study of the life of the great Russian novelist Fyodor Dostoevsky. One critic, writing upon the publication of the final volume, casually tagged the series as the ultimate work on Dostoevsky "in any language, and quite possibly forever." Frank himself had not originally...



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Dostoevsky: The Seeds of Revolt, 1821-1849

Author	Joseph Frank
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Peek Inside the Book

Kant explained that the consciousness of good and evil is innate to mankind, written indelibly into the human heart. Earthly life, however, reveals a glaring contradiction: the virtuous in this world, those who choose to live by the good and obey the moral law, are not always the ones who prosper and receive their just reward. But if, as we must assume, the Eternal Creative Mind is rational and beneficent, then we must also assume that this contradiction will not be left unresolved. Hence we postulate the existence of...

A typical Russian Romantic of the 1830's, Shidlovsky was consumed, as they all were, with unappeasable desires that could not be satisfied within the bounds of earthly life. His few extant poems are all expressions of this Romantic malaise, which leads him to melancholy questionings about the meaning of human existence. No answer is...

Reader's Opinions

Extremely detailed. Despite Frank's obsession with cultural context as well as drawing out many of Dostoevsky's friends, Dostoevsky himself comes through. A cold chill ran over me when, in the last pages of this volume, Dostoevsky wrote he had left to prison...