

# # 1. Leo Tolstoy – A Moral Voice of World Literature

Biography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Born: September 9, 1828, Yasnaya Polyana estate.</li> <li>• Orphaned, raised by relatives.</li> <li>• Received a home education.</li> <li>• Entered Kazan University: studied law and oriental languages, did not complete his degree.</li> <li>• A soldier in the Crimean War.</li> <li>• Life of introspection and transformation.</li> <li>• A Christian anarchist and moral philosopher.</li> <li>• Rejected wealth and status.</li> <li>• Advocated for simplicity, non-violence, and spiritual awakening.</li> <li>• Died: 1910</li> <li>• Left behind a literary and philosophical legacy influencing global thought.</li> </ul>
Main Literary Works	<p>The most influential novels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>“War and Peace”</b> – a narrative blending history, philosophy, and human drama.</li> <li>• <b>“Anna Karenina”</b> – a psychological novel on love, betrayal, and the role of women in Russian society.</li> <li>• <b>“The Death of Ivan Ilyich”</b>, <b>“Resurrection”</b>, and <b>“The Kreutzer Sonata”</b> – shorter works on mortality, guilt, and the search for truth.</li> <li>• Essays on education, religion, and ethics reflect his own moral philosophy.</li> </ul>
Screen Adaptations and Theatrical Productions	<p>Numerous screen and stage adaptations:"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>“War and Peace”</b> - a Soviet-era film epic (Sergei Bondarchuk’s 1960s version won an Oscar) and later adapted into international films and series.</li> <li>• <b>“Anna Karenina”</b> adapted by directors around the world.</li> <li>• His stories, dramatized in theatre, highlight the complexity of human choices and moral dilemmas.</li> <li>• Tolstoy's themes are relevant to global audiences.</li> </ul>
The Significance and Contribution to Russian Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• one of the greatest novelists in world history;</li> <li>• shaped Russian national consciousness;</li> <li>• influenced political and spiritual movements worldwide;</li> <li>• realistic style and psychological insight transformed the novel as a literary form ;</li> <li>• deeply impacted figures such as Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr.;</li> <li>• teachings on education contributed to pedagogical reforms.</li> </ul>