The Slave Soul of Russia

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Praise for the Book

“A vast, provocative study . . . psychologically illuminating.”
—Times Literary Supplement

“General readers will regard the book’s hypothesis as a wonderful armature supporting a wealth of insight derived from an impressive knowledge of Russian culture, high and low. This is a truly brilliant work.” —Choice

“[Rancour-Laferriere] sees in Russian masochism one of the attractions and beauties of Russian culture. Sure to raise eyebrows, if not hackles.”
—Library Journal

Russian history, religion, folklore, and literature are rife with suffering. The plight of Anna Karenina, the submissiveness of serfs in the 16th and 17th centuries, ancient religious tracts emphasizing humility as “the mother of virtues,” and the current economic upheavals wracking the country are a few symptoms of what The Slave Soul of Russia identifies as a veritable cult of suffering, centuries in the making. Here, for the first time, is a compelling portrait of the Russian people’s psychology.

DANIEL RANCOUR-LAFERRIERE is Professor of Russian at the University of California, Davis. He is the author of The Mind of Stalin and Tolstoy’s Pierre Bezukhov and editor of Self-Analysis in Literary Study (published by NYU Press).

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