A slightly modified Library of Congress (LC) transliteration system is used throughout the present book. For the sake of readability, names ending in –ii (Dostoevskii) are rendered with –y (Dostoevsky) within the main body; in the bibliography and in clear references to the bibliography, such names retain the LC transliteration. The same applies to the use of a single i (Lidia) in some female names rather than ii (Lidiia). One notable exception is the absence of straight apostrophes as soft sign markers (Gogol as opposed to Gogol’). Names of well-known figures appear in their familiar English-language variants (Alexander and Tolstoy instead of Aleksandr and Tolstoi).