

SOFYA KOVALEVSKAYA

by Sofia Pisanova



BIOGRAPHY

• **Sofya Vasilyevna Kovalevskaya (Korvin-Krukovskaya)**, (born January 15, 1850, Moscow, Russia—died February 10, 1891, Stockholm, Sweden), was a mathematician and writer who made a valuable contribution to the theory of partial differential equations.



- She was the first woman in modern Europe to gain a doctorate in mathematics, the first to join the editorial board of a scientific journal, and the first to be appointed professor of mathematics.



- 1868 - left Russia and traveled to Austria and Germany
- 1869 - studied at the University of Heidelberg
- 1874 - presented three papers—on partial differential equations, on Saturn's rings, and on elliptic integrals
- in 1883 Kovalevskaya accepted Magnus Mittag-Leffler's invitation to become a lecturer in mathematics at the University of Stockholm
- 1889 – promotes as a full professor
- **in 1888 she became the first woman to be elected a corresponding member of the Russian Academy of Sciences.**

Kovalevskaya also gained a reputation as a writer, an advocate of women's rights, and a champion of radical political causes. She composed novels, plays, and essays, including the autobiographical *Memories of Childhood* (1890) and *The Nihilist Woman* (1892), a depiction of her life in Russia.



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