

**FYODOR
MIKHAYLOVICH
DOSTOYEVSKY**

BIOGRAPHY

BORN: NOVEMBER 11, 1821
MOSCOW, RUSSIA
DIED: JANUARY 28, 1881
ST. PETERSBURG, RUSSIA





EARLY WRITINGS

- Dostoevsky began his career writing fiction about poor people in harsh situations.
- 1843 – Poor Folk
- 1846 – The Double
- From 1846 to 1849 his life and work were characterized by aimlessness and confusion.
- 1847 – Dostoyevsky joined the Petrashevsky Circle
- 1849 – The arrest

YEARS OF CHANGE

- 1856 – Dostoevsky had married Maria Issaeva
- 1861 – *Memoirs from the House of the Dead*
- 1864 – *Notes from the Underground*
- 1861 – Polina Suslova
- 1864 – Maria Issaeva had died
- 1865 – Anna Grigorievna Snitkina – second wife



THE GREAT NOVELS

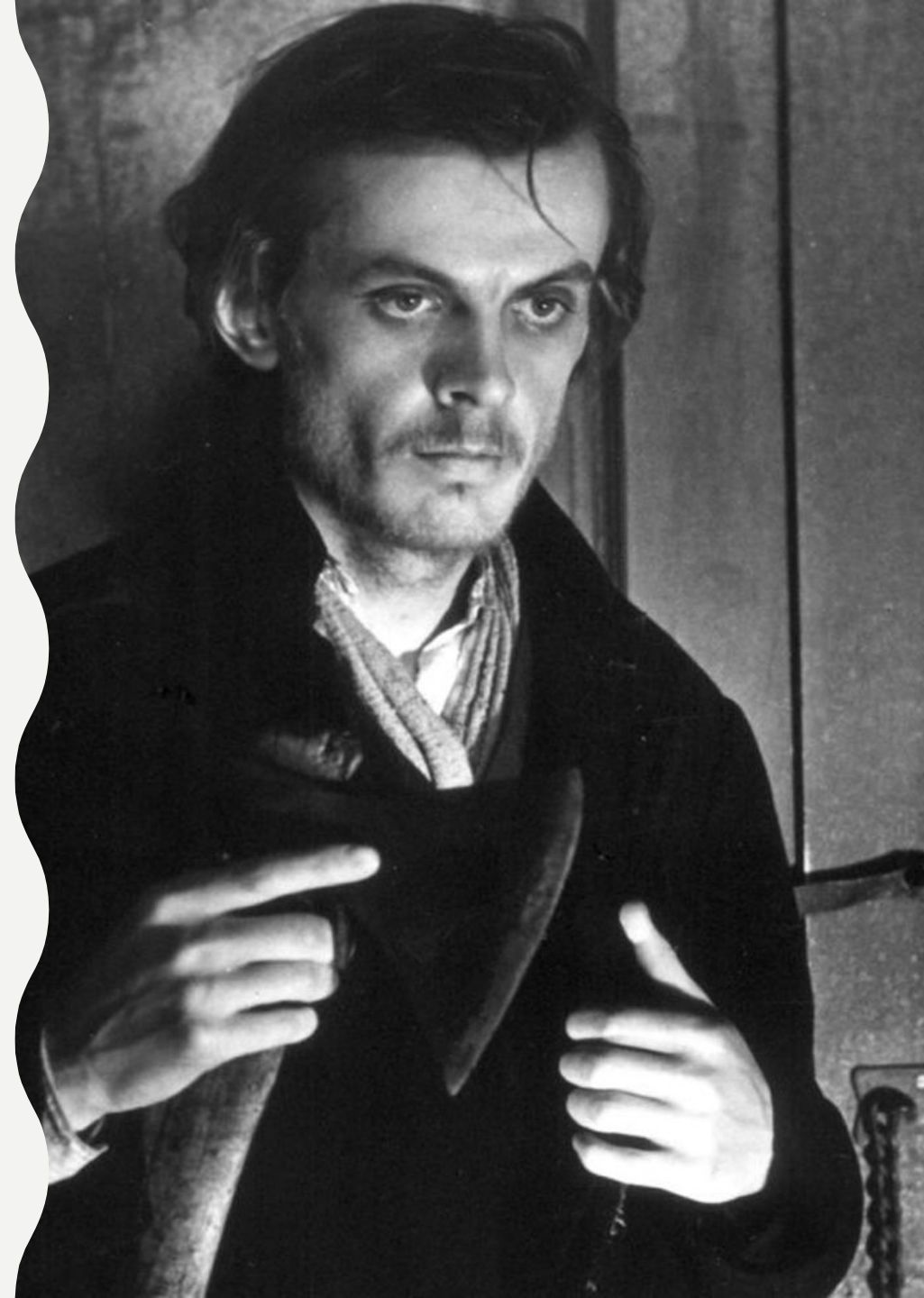
- 1866 – Crime and Punishment
- Dostoevsky traveled in 1867 and remained away from Russia for more than four years.
- The Idiot was written between 1867 and 1869.
- Dostoevsky began writing The Possessed in 1870 and published it in 1871–1872.
- The Brothers Karamazov (1879–1880) is the greatest of Dostoevsky's novels.



CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

Raskolnikov, an impoverished student living in the St. Petersburg of the tsars, is determined to overreach his humanity and assert his untrammelled individual will. When he commits an act of murder and theft, he sets into motion a story that, for its excruciating suspense, its atmospheric vividness, and its depth of characterization and vision is almost unequaled in the literatures of the world.

Dostoevsky's drama of sin, guilt, and redemption transforms the sordid story of an old woman's murder into the nineteenth century's profoundest and most compelling philosophical novel.



THE IDIOT



Returning to Russia from a sanitarium in Switzerland, the Christ-like epileptic Prince Myshkin finds himself enmeshed in a tangle of love, torn between two women - the notorious kept woman Nastasya and the pure Aglaia - both involved, in turn, with the corrupt, money-hungry Ganya. In the end, Myshkin's honesty, goodness, and integrity are shown to be unequal to the moral emptiness of those around him.

THE POSSESSED (DEMONS)

Inspired by the true story of a political murder that horrified Russians in 1869, Fyodor Dostoevsky conceived of Demons as a "novel-pamphlet" in which he would say everything about the plague of materialist ideology that he saw infecting his native land. What emerged was a prophetic and ferociously funny masterpiece of ideology and murder in pre-revolutionary Russia.



THE BROTHERS KARAMAZOV

This extraordinary novel, Dostoyevsky's last and greatest work, tells the dramatic story of four brothers: Dmitri, pleasure-seeking, impatient, unruly; Ivan, brilliant and morose; Alyosha, gentle, loving, honest; the illegitimate Smerdyakov, sly, silent, cruel. Driven by intense passion, they become involved in the brutal murder of their own father, one of the most loathsome characters in all literature. Dostoyevsky's final masterpiece is at once a complex character study, a riveting murder mystery, and a fascinating examination of man's morality and the question of God's existence.

