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# "An Exploration Of Love And Loyalty In Leo Tolstoy's War And Peace"

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## **Introduction:**

According to Tolstoy The Love, which means, An enemy can only be loved with divine love, yet a loved one can be loved with human love. Only when one is willing to give up oneself for another can love truly exist. 1865–1869: War and Peace, The Anna Karenina, 1873–1877 Considered Tolstoy's prime writing years, all of his literary prowess and moral principles appear to be equally balanced during this time: Tolstoy the seeker, the man, and the lover of the natural and human worlds balances Tolstoy the philosopher, teacher, and sage. It is generally believed that Tolstoy writes as close to how life itself would write itself as possible. There are numerous romances in War and Peace with differing levels of success. In many of these partnerships, people replace true love with a variety of factors, such as reputation, passion, or impersonal ideals, due to social pressures or their own inexperience as young people. The phoney marriage between Pierre and H el ene, which is only deemed lovely by society, is among the most blatant examples. In a completely different situation, Natasha is caught up in the delusion that Anatole Kuragin is a good man when he flirts with her. Even in a relationship with real promise, such as Natasha's engagement to Prince Andrei, their romance wanes because Natasha is more of a symbol of Andrei's happiness than a unique individual. Usually, it only happens after characters.

**Keywords:** Love, Loyalty, Leo Tolstoy, War and peace etc.

## **Introduction**

### **Love and Loyalty in Leo Tolstoy's War and Peace**

#### **Background:**

Pierre is a young man at the start of the book who just returned to Russia to look for work after studying elsewhere. He is a good-hearted, well-meaning young guy, but he is uncomfortable and unfit for the Russian high society that he begins to associate with. Despite his intelligence, Pierre lacks the rationality of his companion Prince Andrei Nikolayevich Bolkonsky. His indecisiveness causes him to associate with a gang of reckless young men,

such as Anatole Kuragin and Dolokhov, whose antics and excessive drinking lead to minor controversies. Pierre is expelled from St. after an especially ludicrous incident in which a police officer is roped to the back of a bear and flung into a river. As the only successor to his father's enormous estate, Pierre's life undergoes a transformation, and he no longer holds the status of an illegitimate son but rather the new Count Bezukhov. Because he is unable to manage his emotions and sexual desires, he marries Princess Helene, who is sensually gorgeous but vacuous. Her father, Prince Vasily, arranges the marriage in order to have access to Pierre's recently acquired enormous money. Despite having affairs, Helene is not in love with Pierre. Pierre shoots her supposed lover, Dolokhov, in a duel out of jealousy.

Literature and love have been connected since the beginning. The Epic of Gilgamesh, the oldest piece of literature, deals with love. The theme of love appears frequently throughout Homer's works. Love is a major theme in the Bible, with the Psalms and Sirach and the Song of Songs being the most notable examples of its lyrical and wisdom writings. The central theme of Tolstoy's epic is love. To enquire into its nature is to go to the core of anything, the core of the issue. The fight for love is linked to the pursuit of knowledge and insight, which frequently appears to be the motivation behind the plot and the characters. Because finding and completing love is the greatest heroic struggle, and love is the finest knowledge. "War and peace" can also signify "war and the world" in Russian. Even without knowing Russian, the double meaning is plainly apparent. Everything is included in the world. And it's true that war and peace cover almost everything. Politics, family, courtship, death, and planning. Age, Youth, Patriotism, As the novel progresses, everything related to "the world" takes centre stage. However, by the end of the story, all of the world's problems eventually fade away and lead to love through the marriages of Marya Bolkonsky and Nikolai Rostov and Natasha Rostov with Pierre Bezukhov, who both learn to let go of their selfish and worldly goals and give their own selves as free gifts to their significant others. A young woman at the heart of Pierre and Andrei's romantic triangle is Natasha Rostova. Her story illustrates the intricacies of Russian society and love in the 19th century. Numerous instances of immature love that falls short of its promise are provided throughout the book. Because Pierre and Helene married for social prestige rather than love, their union is a tragic charade. Pierre agrees to the marriage even though he is aware of Helene's immorality and stupidity because "not for me alone, but for all of them, this inevitably had to come about." I just can't let them down since they all have such high expectations. However, their marriage is characterised by infidelity, hostility, and ultimately collapse because "this" and the need to fit in with society's expectations prove to be an insufficient basis for an enduring love.

Numerous romances with differing degrees of success may be found in War and Peace. Due to social pressure or their own inexperience as young people, participants in many of these relationships replace true love with a variety of factors, such as reputation, passion, or idealistic abstractions. Pierre and Hélène's phoney marriage, which is only deemed lovely by

society, is among the most blatant examples. In a completely different scenario, Natasha is led astray by the debauched Anatole Kuragin's flirtations with her, leading her to believe that he is a good man. Natasha is more of a symbol of Andrei's happiness than a unique individual, and their affection wanes even in a relationship with real potential, such as her engagement to Prince Andrei.

**Some quotes from the text....**

**But one thing I beg of you, look on me as your friend; and if you want some help, advice, or simply want to open your heart to someone- not now, but when things are clearer in your heart- think of me.' He took her hand and kissed it. 'I shall be happy, if I am able...' Pierre was confused."**

**(Tolstoy, War and Peace)**

**"Everything I know, I know because of love."**

**"You can love a person dear to you with a human love, but an enemy can only be loved with divine love."**

**"The whole world is divided for me into two parts: one is she, and there is all happiness, hope, light; the other is where she is not, and there is dejection and darkness."**

The start with the The young woman at the heart of Pierre and Andrei's romantic triangle is Natasha Rostova. Her story illuminates the intricacies of Russian society and love in the 19th century. The leaders of the Rostov family are Count Rostov and Countess Rostova. A solid foundation for a mature, mutually accepting relationship is ultimately provided by Natasha and Pierre's unspoken agreement. In keeping with the theme of War and Peace, the final narrative segment centres on two happy marriages: Rostov (Nikolai and Marya) and Bezukhov (Pierre and Natasha).

**"Love hinders death. Love is life. All everything that I understand, I understand only because I love. Everything is, everything exists, only because I love. Everything is united by it alone. Love is God, and to die means that I, particle of love, shall return to the general and eternal source."**

**— Leo Tolstoy, War and Peace**

**In this work we encounter a young woman on the verge of adulthood named Natasha Rostova, who is passionate and vivacious. As she balances romance and social standards, we can't help but be captivated to her because of her endearing innocence and joy. The handsome Pierre Bezukhov, a recent arrival to the world of privilege and wealth, is pondering his identity and purpose in the meantime. He tries to make sense of his newfound position and his deep-seated yearning for purpose in life. Among them is the sophisticated**

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and crafty Hélène Kuragina, who astonishes with her beauty and charisma. Her dazzling exterior conceals the cunning tendencies that would ultimately be her downfall, and she is unhappy in her marriage to Pierre. The stoic and reflective Prince Andrei Bolkonsky, on the other hand, finds it difficult to find comfort and purpose in a world that is becoming more chaotic and shallow. The conflict between appearance and truth is central to this glitzy social scene. The protagonists struggle with both their innate needs for personal fulfilment and society's expectations. In addition to navigating friendship, love, and ambition, they also have to deal with the danger of war, which might upset the delicate balance in their lives. We can instantly identify with Natasha's universal feelings when she falls in love for the first time with the handsome Anatole Kuragin. Time and location are irrelevant when it comes to the sensations of vulnerability, excitement, and uncertainty that accompany falling in love.

### **Conclusion:**

Thus my paper presented The influence of the Napoleonic wars on a diverse set of Russian aristocracy is chronicled in Leo Tolstoy's mammoth work of historical fiction, War and Peace. It looks at issues like loyalty, love, family, and the pointlessness of war. Our universal concerns are the pursuit of happiness, the struggle for identity, and the search for meaning. By detailing the decisions and lives of these many characters, Tolstoy offers us a prism through which we can examine our own circumstances and the interdependence of all people with love and loyalty. The reason for living Tolstoy ponders the meaning of life and the quest for contentment. He contends that pursuing material money and power is not the path to contentment and pleasure.

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