

9/26/13

## **Russian Language, Literature, and Civilization**

I am a sick man.... I am a spiteful man. I am an unattractive man. I believe my liver is diseased. However, I know nothing at all about my disease, and do not know for certain what ails me. I don't consult a doctor for it, and never have, though I have a respect for medicine and doctors. Besides, I am extremely superstitious, sufficiently so to respect medicine, anyway (I am well-educated enough not to be superstitious, but I am superstitious). No, I refuse to consult a doctor from spite. That you probably will not understand. Well, I understand it, though. Of course, I can't explain who it is precisely that I am mortifying in this case by my spite: I am perfectly well aware that I cannot "pay out" the doctors by not consulting them; I know better than anyone that by all this I am only injuring myself and no one else. But still, if I don't consult a doctor it is from spite. My liver is bad, well--let it get worse!

860 Volga Vikings - Rus

900 Capital Established in Kiev

990 Vladimir I, Prince of Kiev converts to Orthodox Christianity (Earliest Text Novgorod Codex)

1230-1400 Mongol Invasion and Domination

1400-1530 Ivan III and IV defeat Mongols, consolidate power in Moscow

1689-1796 Peter the Great and Catherine II turn towards the West

1812 Napoleon Invades Emperor Alexander

1850s Crimean War Tsar Nicholas

1861 Serfs Emancipated

1905 First Parliament

1917 Russian/Revolution Civil War

1991 End of Soviet Union

### **Writers to Consider**

Lermontov, Pushkin, Turgenev, Gogol, Dostoyevsky, Tolstoy, Chekhov, Blok, Akhmatova, Bryusov, Nabokov

### **Nobel Prize Winners**

Ivan Bunin, Boris Pasternak, Mikhail Sholokhov  
Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, Joseph Brodsky

