

On the Pages of Historical Novels By V. Pikul

*Elena Vitalievna Shevchenko*¹

Abstract: The article examines the writer's appeal to history, his desire to show in his historical novels the patriotism of the Russian people. His novels are built on the opposition of positive and negative characters, good and evil, a sense of duty to the country and betrayal.

Key words and phrases: Patriotism, history, war, battle, contrast, image, country, historical figures.

Valentin Savvich Pikul for the reader very often acts as a discoverer. As part of his novels show those pages of history, which were known for the most part only to narrow specialists. The writer himself said: "The main thing for me - a patriotic idea".

In Russian history there have been many glorious and inglorious wars, and many diplomatic intrigues. One of the tense periods was the Seven Years' War in the 18th century. The writer refers to this time in his novel "The Pen and the Sword". The plot is based on the story of a French diplomat. This image allows the writer to show the intertwined interests of European countries. We see the selfishness and stupidity, and sometimes cowardice, of a number of Russian dignitaries and genuine patriots at the same time. One of them is General Saltykov. The author describes him as a quiet old man, who "never got ahead and did not wander near the throne. But it was he who turned out to be the true victor of the Prussian king Friedrich II, the hero of the great European war. He was a talented commander who understood the soldier. His detractors had not forgiven him for his independence. Unfortunately, the war did not benefit Russia.

Elizabeth was succeeded by the German Catherine II. Her reign is described in the novel "The Favorite. It was the "golden age" of the Russian nobility. The main artistic principle of Pikulia is to show the era through historical figures. There are many of them in the novel. But the leading characters are Catherine and Potemkin. The tsarina appears as a strong-willed and intelligent woman, familiar with prominent European philosophers. She has the ability to "make people feel good about themselves. people, knows the interests of the country and serves them. But at the same time she is cunning, sometimes insidious and cruel ruler, too amorous to be impassive. The figure of "His Serene Highness" Prince Potemkin is also contradictory. He is a shrewd, cunning man and courtier, often unprincipled, sometimes very rude. But the writer notes one very important trait, which probably made the prince a notable personality in our history. It relates him to Volynsky in "The Word and the Deed," Saltykov, Gorchakov in "The Battle of the Iron Chancellors," our generals and naval commanders in "Favorit. This is patriotism. The range of historical eras described by the novelist is great.

In 1987, Pikul completed a cycle of novels about the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-1905. These events have already been reflected in literature: in A. Stepanov's Port Arthur and A. Novikov-Priboy's Tsushima. But Pikul tells about the war in his own way. The writer believes that history The writer believes that history does not tolerate templates with which we approach certain events and personalities. He reminds us that although we are used to considering the Tsushima battle a defeat of the tsarist fleet, we forget about the high patriotism of sailors, when sailors and officers knew that they would die, but fought to the last breath defending the honor of Russia

In the last novel of his epic "Katorga" Pikul tells about Sakhalin. An unknown page of history is revealed. When the Japanese came to the island, the exiles began to defend their terrible, cruel prison.

¹ Lecturer of the Russian Language Methodology Department Fergana State University



The writer psychologically accurately identified the origins of the patriotism of these criminals. Despite all the vices of their character and upbringing, they remain Russian and fight, die for their homeland.

Great impression was made by the novel "At the Last Line" about an adventurer Grishka Rasputin and the last years of the royal house of Romanov. The writer showed the moral and spiritual squalor of those in power. People who were in the hands of the country's fate were themselves a toy in the hands of the dark peasant and mystic Rasputin.

Pikul's novels are built on contrasts, on the opposition of patriots and traitors; honest, loyal people and careerists, hawkers; brave and cowards. Before us a gallery of interesting and significant, fateful and insignificant figures. But at the same time, the writer is not always justified in digging intimate details, sticking out and relishing them. Perhaps this is one reason why some people consider Pikul's novels tabloid.

But we should appreciate the fact that Valentin Pikul opened for us many episodes of history, made them alive, filled with interesting images, and helped many people to love

And, of course, we must remember that Russian and Soviet literature has a very strong tradition of historical prose and poetry. Pushkin and Lermontov, Zagoskin and Tolstoy, Tolstoy and Merezhkovsky, Yesenin and Tolstoy, Sergei Sergeev-Tsensky and Borschagovsky, Tynianov and Jan - these and many other writers created brilliant works about our country's past.

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