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OF
RUSSIA



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CONCISE ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF RUSSIA

by

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FOR KOLYA

*who did not demand attention
over many many week-ends*



1961

1873; *The Sealed Angel*, 1873, etc.) are chiefly concerned with the Church and clergy and with popular beliefs and superstitions; his prose excels in richness and colourfulness. Though firmly anti-radical (*No Way Out*, 1864), Leskov was mistrusted by the conservatives for his denouncement of ecclesiastical bureaucracy. He was either ignored or attacked from both sides politically, and real esteem for him came only after his death.

Letts, see LATVIANS.

Levitan, Isaak Il'ich (1860–1900), landscape painter, studied at the Moscow Art School, 1873–85; he became a member of the *Peredvizhniki* (q.v.). His understanding of and his power to express the lyrical beauty of the central Russian countryside have never been equalled.

Levitskiy, Dmitry Grigor'yevich (1735–1822), portrait painter, studied in Kiev and St Petersburg. From 1771 he directed the portrait-painting class at the Academy of Arts. One of the greatest Russian masters of the psychological portrait, Levitskiy also surpassed all his predecessors in technical brilliance. He was susceptible to the contemporary Western trends and quickly adapted them for his own use. Thus his first creative period, up to the mid 1780's, shows signs of French influence ('Architect Kokorinov,' 'Prince A. M. Golitsyn,' etc.), whereas later he derived inspiration mainly from English painting. Levitskiy never failed to reveal the essential personality of the sitter, and created the character and style of St Petersburg society, not unlike van Dyck who earlier had done the same for the English aristocracy.

Lezgians (formerly also called **Kyurins**), best known of the Caucasian-speaking peoples of Daghestan; they also live in north Azerbaydzhan. They number (1959) 223,000 (134,000 in 1926), and are Sunni Muslims, mostly peasants, now collectivized. Their cultural centre is Derbent. In the 18th century the Lezgians formed several khanates which were at first semi-independent from Persia but came under Russian rule between 1800 and 1830. In the past the name Lezgian was frequently applied to all the mountain peoples of Daghestan.

Libau, see LIEPAJA.

Liberation of Labour Group, one of the earliest Russian Marxist organizations, established in 1883 by the former Populists Plekhanov and P. B. Akselrod while living in emigration in Western Europe, influential in popularizing Marxism in Russia. They associated with Lenin against reformism and economism (see ISKRA) in 1900, and dissolved in 1903.

Liepaja (formerly Russian **Libava**, German **Libau**), town in the Latvian Republic, an ice-free port situated on the Baltic Sea. Population (1959) 71,000 (1914, about 100,000; 1935, 57,000), Latvians and Russians (until 1940 also Germans). It has engineering, wood-working, fishing and fish-canning industries, and is an important centre of transportation (five railway lines). Liepaja has been known since 1263 and became a town in 1625 (for history see KURLAND). Before 1914 it had a flourishing export trade which declined when Latvia became independent.