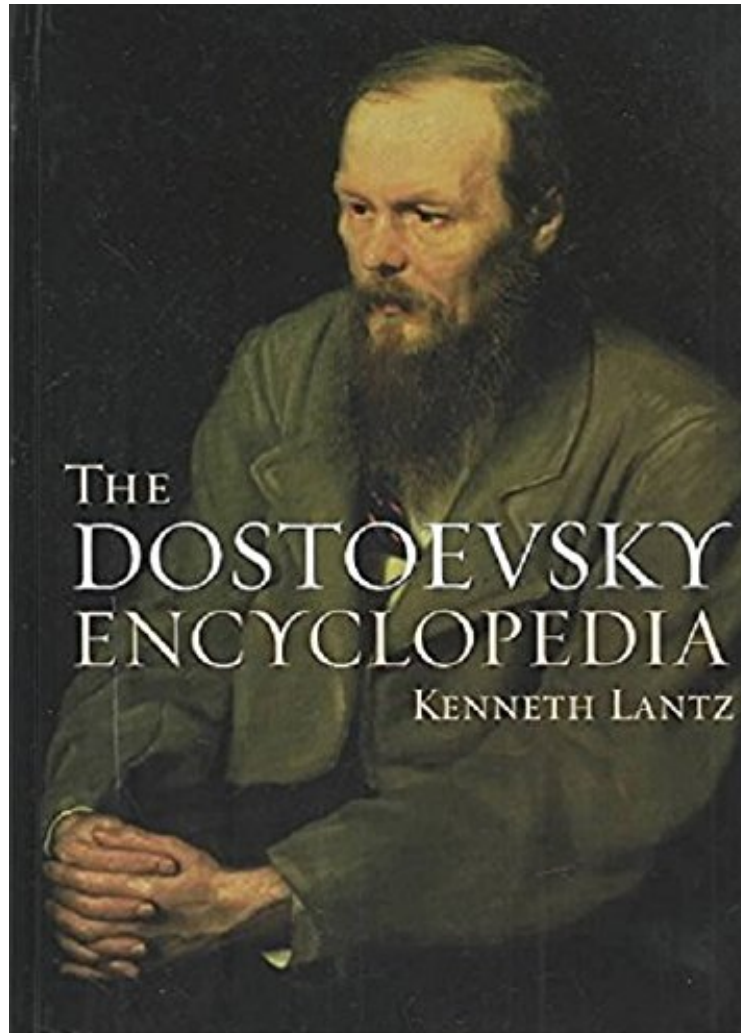


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Kenneth Lantz

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Kenneth Lantz : The Dostoevsky Encyclopedia before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Dostoevsky Encyclopedia:

One of the greatest writers of all time, Fyodor Dostoevsky (1821-1881) is best known for such masterpieces as Crime and Punishment and The Brothers Karamazov. His works are widely read and studied today, and he has received much biographical and critical attention. Like many other writers of enduring literature, he engages timeless moral and theological issues. His writings and ideas are complex and reflect the swirling political and intellectual controversies of his time. This encyclopedia is a convenient and comprehensive guide to his life and writings. Through more than

200 alphabetically arranged entries, this reference details his life and career. Each of his fictional works is discussed, as are his major pieces of journalism. There are also entries for his family members, close friends and associates, places where he lived, literary movements with which he is associated, and journals or newspapers in which he published. Also included are entries for major writers and thinkers who influenced his works, and for ideas and themes that figure prominently in his writings. The entries cite works for further reading, and the encyclopedia closes with a selected, general bibliography of major works.

From Booklist
In 248 entries, this "brief survey of existing knowledge and opinion" covers Fyodor Dostoevsky's fictional writings, selections of nonfiction works (e.g., Letters, Polemical articles), people (family members, writers, and others), places, key periodicals, literary groups and movements, and a selection of general but relevant topics such as Gambling and women. The "Topical List of Entries" lists eight categories, the largest being for "Russian Writers, Critics, Thinkers, and Historical Figures," with 63 entries. Arranged alphabetically, articles vary in length from one-half page to five pages. Targeting the general reader on through specialist, Lantz (University of Toronto) describes topics from different perspectives, often using quotes from Dostoevsky's writings and other resources. For example, the article Crime and criminal justice summarizes Dostoevsky's views on criminal psychology, the penal system, and other related topics, extracting quotes from a letter by Dostoevsky, from notebooks for Crime and Punishment, from drafts of The Devils, and from The Idiot, Notes from the Dead, A Raw Youth, and Writer's Diary. Entries on Dostoevsky's writings go beyond plot summaries, often discussing background and themes. Within articles, bold type indicates a see also reference. Unfortunately, many possible see also references are missed (e.g., Slavophilism in the article westernizers; Gogol, Nikolai Vasilevich in the article on Mikhail Lermontov). Each article includes a source list, which often contains transcribed Russian language titles, probably more useful for the scholar than the general reader. Internet sources are not included. Additional features include an index, a six-page bibliography (English- and Russian-language books), an alphabetical list of articles, and a very detailed chronology. Unique in format and scope compared to the 10 essays that make up *The Cambridge Companion to Dostoevskii* (2002), *The Dostoevsky Encyclopedia* makes a handy ready-reference tool for academic and large public libraries. Stephen Fadel
Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "This one-of-a-kind reference can almost be read front to back; it is that compelling. By revealing the empathetic roots of Dostoevsky's writing, Lantz makes this eminent author more accessible to all of us. Highly recommended for all public and academic libraries." - *Library Journal*, Starred "The Dostoevsky Encyclopedia aims to provide a convenient and comprehensive guide to Dostoevsky for the undergraduate student and general reader approaching that author for the first time. [L]antz has carried it out lucidly, conscientiously, and comprehensively." - *MLR* "[A]n impressive distillation of decades of Dostoevsky scholarship." - *Times Literary Supplement* "[H]ighly recommended for both public and academic libraries. Explanations are not too technical or obtuse and illuminate its subject and the society forming the backcloth for Dostoevsky's great writing. The binding is sturdy and the computer typeface is clear and easy to read. This is a highly recommended and not over-expensive reference acquisition." - *Reference s* "Unique in format and scope. The Dostoevsky Encyclopedia makes a handy ready-reference tool for academic and large public libraries." - *Booklist/Reference Books Bulletin*
About the Author
KENNETH LANTZ is Professor of Russian Literature at the University of Toronto. His previous books include *F. M. Dostoevsky: A Writer's Diary* (1994), and *Chekhov: A Reference Guide* (1985). He is the Editor of the *Toronto Slavic Quarterly*.