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A Brief History of Russian Culture

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Pushkin was exiled

Lermontov was exiled

Dostoevsky was sentenced to death, pitied, exiled

Tolstoy was excommunicated from church

Chernyshevsky was jailed and exiled

Radishchev — exiled

Chaadaev — officially declared insane

Mayakovsky shot himself

Yesenin was hanged, by himself or not

Bunin left the country

Nijinsky left the country

Teffi emigrated

Merezhkovsky emigrated

Gippius emigrated

Kuprin lived in exile

Galich was persecuted, then emigrated

Berdyayev emigrated

The entire ship of the smartest was expelled from the country,
unwanted

Nabokov emigrated

Kandinsky emigrated

Chaliapin emigrated

Rachmaninoff emigrated

Stravinsky emigrated

Gumilyov was shot

Blok — hounded and shamed, driven mad, died of illness

Akhmatova wasn't published, husband — killed, son — imprisoned

Mandelstam was exiled and killed

Repin emigrated

Mikhail Chekhov emigrated

Marc Chagall emigrated

Shostakovich was hounded and banned

Prokofiev — denounced, blacklisted, banned, died in poverty

Shvarts's plays were banned right after he wrote them

Tsvetaeva — exiled and driven to suicide

Likhachev was arrested, exiled, and sacked

Meyerhold was beaten in basements and shot

His wife Zinaida Raikh was murdered in her own flat

Mikhoels — an accident staged, no more Mikhoels

Vavilov was tortured, interrogated, died of hunger

Babel was tortured, denied publication, then shot

Zabolotsky was sent to the camps

Vvedensky died on the way to the camps

Bergholts — beaten while being pregnant, gave birth to a child, already dead

Latvian theatre “Skatuve” in its entirety — shot

Avant-garde artists — persecuted, repressed

Kharms — starved to death in a mental asylum

Jewish Anti-fascist committee — all shot

Tairov's theatre — closed

Bulgakov was hounded and denied publication

Pasternak was hounded and denied publication

Brodsky was hounded, exiled, pushed out of the country

Parajanov — imprisoned

Shalamov — imprisoned, two times

Solzhenitsyn — hounded, exiled, pushed out of the country

Dovlatov was hounded and pushed out of the country

Korzhavin — exiled, pushed out of the country

Voinovich was stripped of citizenship, pushed out of the country

Baryshnikov didn't return

Nureyev didn't return

Tarkovsky was pushed out of the country

Sokolov escaped, never returned

Grossman was banned, denied publication

Litvinenko was poisoned in London

Lyubimov was stripped of citizenship, expelled from the country

Akunin left the country, later was declared an extremist

Yuri Dmitriev was imprisoned

Sakharov Centre — closed

Memorial was liquidated

Bykov was poisoned, declared a foreign agent, left the country

Ulitskaya was declared a foreign agent, books — banned, left the country

Sorokin's books were pulled from the shelves, banned, left the country

Ozerkov resigned from the Hermitage

Raikhelgauz was sacked, his theatre was destroyed

Ryzhakov was sacked

Zvyagintsev left

Glukhovsky left, sentenced in absentia

Tregulova was sacked from the Tretyakov

Sokurov's films — banned

Serebrennikov left

The Gogol Centre was closed

Khamatova left

Tuminas left

Vyrypaev was banned

Durnenkov was removed from the posters

Krymov left, his productions — closed

Akhedzhakova was hounded and banned

Nazarov was sacked for poems then emigrated

Dodin's theatre — sealed

Petriychuk, Berkovich — six years in jail for a play

Bogomolov faced persecution

The Meyerhold Centre was closed

(to be continued...)

The poem is my free translation, interpretation, revision, variation of one

popular Russian meme that has been widely recited and circulating in the noösphere as of late. The first, short version, appeared online as an anecdote in 2022, the longer one was popularised by the journalist and blogger Alexander Nevzorov in 2023. Mine is slightly adapted for English-speaking audience and focused on literature, theatre and arts, while some of the versions also very rightfully include copious journalists, activists, musicians, etc.

Yours truly ([emigrated](#)).



and Mikhail Kulakov emigrated

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