

THE INFLUENCE OF HISTORICAL EVENTS ON THE POETRY OF BYRON AND LERMONTOV

Ruzibayeva Aziza Kahramanovna
Karshi Economy and Pedagogy University

Abstract

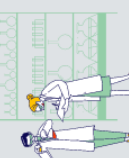
This article explores the influence of historical events on the poetry of two renowned Romantic poets, Lord Byron and Mikhail Lermontov. By examining the political and social contexts in which these poets lived and wrote, this study aims to demonstrate how their works were shaped by the tumultuous events of their time. Through a comparative analysis of selected poems, we uncover how Byron and Lermontov responded to themes such as revolution, war, exile, and nationalism in their poetry. By delving into the historical background of their works, this article sheds light on the ways in which these poets engaged with and reflected upon the pressing issues of their era.

Keywords: Lord Byron, Mikhail Lermontov, poetry, historical events, Romanticism, revolution, war, exile, nationalism.

Introduction

The intersection of history and literature has long been a captivating field of study, offering insights into the ways in which societal events and cultural movements can shape the creative output of artists. In the realm of poetry, the works of Lord Byron and Mikhail Lermontov stand as shining examples of how historical events can serve as powerful catalysts for artistic expression. Both poets lived during tumultuous times in their respective countries - Byron in England during the Romantic era and Lermontov in Russia during a period of political upheaval and social unrest. This article seeks to explore the influence of historical events on the poetry of these two iconic writers, delving into how their personal experiences and observations of the world around them informed their literary works. By examining key poems from each poet's body of work in the context of the historical events that were unfolding during their lifetimes, we can gain a deeper understanding of how external forces shaped their artistic vision and thematic concerns. From Byron's passionate verses on revolution and individualism to Lermontov's poignant reflections on war and existential despair, this exploration will shed light on the enduring relevance and impact of these poets' works in our understanding of history, society, and human nature. Through a comparative analysis of Byron and Lermontov's poetry, this article aims to showcase how these literary giants transcended their own time periods to create timeless works that continue to resonate with readers today.¹

¹ Allen, Elizabeth. *A Fallen Idol is Still a God: Lermontov and the Quandaries of cultural transition*. Stanford University Press, 2006.



MAIN PART

Lord Byron and Mikhail Lermontov are two of the most renowned poets of the Romantic era, known for their powerful and evocative poetry that captured the spirit of their times. Both poets were deeply influenced by the historical events that shaped their lives and the world around them. In this article, we will explore how historical events influenced the poetry of Byron and Lermontov, focusing on key events such as the Napoleonic Wars, political upheaval, and social change.²

Byron and the Napoleonic Wars

Lord Byron was born in 1788, during a time of great political turmoil in Europe. The Napoleonic Wars were raging across the continent, with Napoleon Bonaparte's armies conquering vast swathes of territory. The impact of these wars on Byron's poetry was profound, shaping his views on heroism, patriotism, and individual freedom.

Byron's most famous work, "Childe Harold's Pilgrimage," reflects his fascination with the Napoleonic Wars and their aftermath. The poem follows a young nobleman as he travels through Europe, witnessing the devastation wrought by war and reflecting on its impact on society. Byron's portrayal of war as a destructive force that corrupts both individuals and nations is a direct response to the horrors of the Napoleonic Wars.

Furthermore, Byron's own experiences as a traveler in war-torn regions such as Greece and Italy informed his poetic vision. His support for Greek independence from Ottoman rule in particular inspired some of his most stirring verses, such as "The Giaour" and "The Siege of Corinth." Through these poems, Byron celebrated the struggle for freedom against tyranny, drawing parallels between contemporary events and ancient history.

Lermontov and Political Upheaval

Mikhail Lermontov was born in 1814, during a time when Russia was undergoing significant political upheaval. The Decembrist Revolt of 1825 had shaken the foundations of Tsarist rule, leading to widespread repression and censorship. Lermontov's poetry reflects his disillusionment with authority and his sympathy for those who resist oppression.³

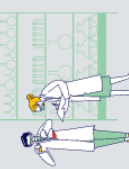
Lermontov's masterpiece, "A Hero of Our Time," explores themes of alienation, rebellion, and moral decay in Russian society. The novel's protagonist, Pechorin, is a Byronic anti-hero who embodies Lermontov's critique of traditional values and social norms. Through Pechorin's voice, Lermontov expresses his own ambivalence towards authority figures and institutions.

Moreover, Lermontov's involvement in duels with fellow officers reflected his defiance against authority figures. This attitude is evident in poems like "Borodino," which commemorates Russia's victory over Napoleon at Borodino but also laments the senseless loss of life in war.

Both Lord Byron's poetry reflect his fascination with heroism, patriotism, individual freedoms whereas Mikhail Lermontov's work explores themes such as alienation, rebellion, moral decay. Both poets were deeply influenced by historical events such as Napoleonic wars,

² Lansdown, Richard, and Dosia Reichardt. "' Almost as far as Petersburg': Byron and the Russians." *Keats-Shelley Journal* 56 (2007): 52-77.

³ Lavrin, Janko. "Some Notes on Lermontov's Romanticism." *The Slavonic and East European Review* 36, no. 86 (1957): 69-80.



political upheavals which shaped their views on society . Their works continue to resonate with readers today because they capture the spirit of their times while offering timeless insights into human nature.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the poetry of Byron and Lermontov is deeply influenced by the historical events of their time, reflecting the turbulence and upheaval of the 19th century. Both poets lived in a period marked by political revolutions, social change, and war, which shaped their views on society, politics, and human nature.

Byron's poetry often explores themes of individualism, freedom, and rebellion against authority, mirroring his own personal struggles with societal norms and expectations. His experiences during the Napoleonic Wars and his involvement in the Greek War of Independence are evident in his works such as "Childe Harold's Pilgrimage" and "Don Juan", where he criticizes tyranny and champions the cause of liberty.

Similarly, Lermontov's poetry reflects the tumultuous events of his time, particularly the Decembrist Revolt of 1825 and the Caucasus War. His works like "Borodino" and "The Demon" depict themes of heroism, honor, and destiny amidst a backdrop of conflict and strife. Lermontov's portrayal of tragic figures and doomed romances resonates with the sense of despair and disillusionment that pervaded Russian society during this period.

Overall, both Byron and Lermontov's poetry serves as a powerful reflection of the historical context in which they lived, capturing the spirit of revolution, patriotism, and romanticism that defined their era. Their works continue to inspire readers today with their timeless themes and enduring relevance in a world still grappling with issues of power, justice, and freedom. Through their poetry, Byron and Lermontov have left an indelible mark on literary history as voices that echo across time, speaking to the enduring power of art to transcend boundaries and illuminate the human experience.

REFERENCES

1. Allen, Elizabeth. *A Fallen Idol is Still a God: Lermontov and the Quandaries of cultural transition*. Stanford University Press, 2006.
2. Lansdown, Richard, and Dusia Reichardt. "' Almost as far as Petersburg": Byron and the Russians." *Keats-Shelley Journal* 56 (2007): 52-77.
3. Cameron, A.H., 1974. *Byronism in Lermontov's A hero of our time* (Doctoral dissertation, University of British Columbia).

