

## SUMMARIES

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### HUMAN AND CITY IN THE RUSSIAN LITERATURE OF THE LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> – EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES

This article studies the ways how the city is depicted in correlation with the village in the Russian literature of the late 19<sup>th</sup> – early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Also, the main tendencies of its development have been traced.

Pictures of the big city life did not play a significant role in prose of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Despite the changes brought by the reforms of 1860, Russia has not seen the disintegration of a traditional community. Many political, legal and religious elements of a bourgeois civilization have not been developed or not developed enough, and that, in particular, reflected the description of a city in the literature. A Western-European city was the embodiment of bourgeois lifestyle, being economical and cultural center. The city in the Russian public mind had two variations – as an embodiment of statehood, political structure imposing a dictation of status (Mikhail Saltykov-Shchedrin's *The History of a Town*), as well as an embodiment of trade relations, power of money, demonic vanity harming a human soul (Nikolai Gogol's cycle of *St. Petersburg novelettes*). Both ways did not coincide with the traditional ideas of the true function of man and were opposed to patriarchal values. Russian literature had oppositions of city and village, city and mansion, city and nature, but their patriarchal, nationalistic interpretation made them irrelevant at the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. It was one of those innumerable ideological reappraisals which took place in the culture of a transitional epoch. A city is gaining its importance in the life of Russia, and that is reflected in the literature. Its image is becoming more complicated, multidimensional, psychologically precise and delicate.