

Title: Serfdom in Russian Novels circa 1861: Alexander Radishchev, Evgenia Tur, Sofia and Nadezhda Khvoshchinskaia

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With reappearance of Alexander Radishchev's name in the press in 1859, Sofia Khvoshchinskaia anonymously published an a short, glowing biography (1861) that led to *Illustratsiia* being shut down by censors, who had already rejected the article in 1859. This paper explores the reverberations of Radishchev's legacy as a premier Western-educated statesman opposed to serfdom in novels by Evgenia Tur and the sisters Sofia and Nadezhda Khvoshchinskaia. Their novels have been examined by myself and others for their resonance with the politics surrounding the woman question, but rarely in connection with the enormous political quagmire of the latter half of the nineteenth century in Russia of the emancipation of the serfs, which turns out to be a major theme in their works.