

Title: Voracious Utopias: Totalized Space and its Critics in Soviet Science Fiction  
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Certain narratives of travel and exploration in Russian and Russo-Soviet culture produce the impression that the authors have preemptively taken the step to absorb foreign spaces into the Russian polity that may never be militarily claimable; few texts are as ambitious in this colonizing venture than utopian science fiction novels of the 1950s, a fact which both the original authors and their audiences eventually acknowledged both implicitly and parodically.

Ivan Efremov's novel *Tumannost' Andromedy* (1957) and its novella companion *Serdtsse zmei* (1958) present the inevitable rise of communism from dialectical history leads as a consequence to the entire galaxy's being communist; a better developed form of the Soviet Union effectively colonizes the galaxy. Differences between the Earth and the rest of the galaxy are flattened; human-alien communications are uniformly harmonious because they are equally integrated into the system.

The colonial nature of this claim on the galaxy does become more pronouncedly expressed over time. Efremov's 1968 novel *Chas byka* reintegrated the volatile boundary between colonial center and the peripheral, outlier planet, Tormans. The problems within the impulse to downplay differences between that which is possessed and that which is desired are taken to a parodic extreme, however, in Viktor Pelevin's *Omon Ra* (1992). There, in order to meet the requirements of this particular utopian subgenre of Soviet science fiction, the self-contained Communist realm of the familiar must be restricted to subterranean Moscow. Though the bounds of this realm are constricted, however, the violence to and domination of outliers remains a feature of the peripheries. The inclusion of *Tumannost' Andromedy* among the kaleidoscopic references in Pelevin's novel only formally confirms what the behavior of the novel space itself had already proposed—one of the objects of critique is the specific behavior of space as a colonial entity in utopian science fiction.