

Title: The New Soviet Cyborg: Majakovskij's "Protestuju!" and the Strugackijs' *Dalekaja raduga*
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Examinations of the myth of the New Soviet Man and the "improvement" of the human form (often via mechanization) tend to concentrate on the early Soviet period. This has consequences for the study of Soviet literature in general, since the Soviet science fiction of the postwar period is rich in its various depictions of altered and transformed human bodies that continue the myth of the New Soviet Man. This paper will compare two texts, one from each period: Majakovskij's poem "Protestuju!" (1924) and Arkadij and Boris Strugackijs' novella *Dalekaja raduga* (1962). Majakovskij's poem rejects the body as weak and temporary, proposing a proto-cybernetic reconstruction of the human form. The Strugackijs—writing in the post-cybernetic era—have as one of the protagonists of their novella a reconstructed human, the cyborg Kamill. In this and subsequent works, the Strugackijs argue both implicitly and explicitly that the improvement of humans by machines is a barren endeavor. Given that these two works represent only a small part of the literature devoted to this question, the paper will touch on the works of writers from both the early twentieth century (Gastev, Platonov, Zamjatin) and the postwar period (Savchenko, Tertc, Varshavskij) as the discussion allows. Yet the primary focus will be on the given texts as representatives of the diversity of approaches to this question.

Bibliography

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