

Title: "The Ties that Bind: Emancipation's Deeper Meaning in Fathers and Sons"

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In discussions of the role politics play in Turgenev's fiction, emancipation is usually considered alongside a host of other related political issues. This approach tends to deemphasize the crucial importance emancipation had in Turgenev's works; he returned repeatedly throughout his career to the idea of emancipation and its meaning, a meaning that, for him, tends to carry not just political but also spiritual and emotional implications.

This paper will concentrate on emancipation in *Fathers and Sons*, arguing for its importance as both a political and a moral idea in the novel. *Fathers and Sons* offers two contrasting views of the meaning of emancipation: on the one hand, it can be seen as a precursor to widespread rebellion and destruction, while on the other it can be seen as a step in a gradual, communal political process that helps link each person to everyone else. Thus ultimately emancipation becomes more than a political idea linked to a specific moment in history; it also becomes an expression of the conflict between two opposing ways of approaching the role of humanity in the world.