

Contents

Introduction. War and the Hero in the Russian Twentieth Century 7

Part I CREATING HEROES FROM CHAOS

Chapter One. Born in the Crucible of War:
Chapaev and His Socialist Realist Comrades 34

Part II WORLD WAR II AND THE HERO

Chapter Two. The Peasant-Soldier:
Alexander Tvardovsky and a New Chapaev 66

Chapter Three. Eyewitnesses to Heroism:
Emmanuil Kazakevich and Vera Panova 91

Chapter Four. Retreat:
Viktor Nekrasov and the Truth of the Trenches 117

Part III COLD WAR REPERCUSSIONS

Chapter Five. From World War to Cold War:
Tvardovsky, Solzhenitsyn, Voinovich,
and Heroism in the Post-Stalin Period 146

Chapter Six. Antiheroes in a Post-heroic Age:
Sergei Dovlatov, Vladimir Makanin, and Cold War Malaise 174

Part IV CHAPAEV AND WAR: RUSSIAN REDUX

Chapter Seven. Revisiting War:
Viktor Astafiev and the Boys of '24 206

Chapter Eight. Revisiting Chapaev:
Viktor Pelevin and Vasily Aksyonov 232

Afterword 257

References 263

Index 278