Russian literature is most celebrated for romantic and modernist poetry and 19th-century novels. While various literary traditions have been part of Slavic and Russian culture for more than a millennium, it is only since the 18th century that they came to resemble literature from the West.

Historical Dictionary of Russian Literature contains a chronology, an introductory essay, appendixes, and an extensive bibliography. The dictionary has more than 100 cross-referenced entries on significant people, themes, crucial issues, and the most significant genres that have formed Russian literature. This book is an excellent reference for students, researchers, and anyone wanting to know more about the topic.