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**EUROPEAN NAPOLEONIC MYTH IN THE RUSSIAN LITERATURE:  
BETWEEN THE SLAVOPHILES AND THE WESTERNIZERS**

There are analyzed in our article several examples of European Napoleonic myth's perception by the representatives of different intellectual movements in Russia at the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It is shown, that the understanding of the conqueror's personality in the poetry is associated with the romantic aesthetics. Napoleon's glorification and the understanding of his invincibility and indestructibility are typical for it; but in contrast to the Russian romanticism's poetry, the accent is displaced in poems of two Slavophiles: the conqueror is defeated not by the power of the fate, but by the power of the orthodox faith and the Russian soul. The Slavophiles and the Westernizers paid a tribute to Napoleon's military and state genius. He was for F. Tyutchev and A. Homyakov an extraordinary personality, who hadn't understood the sacral meaning of the Russian faith and hadn't appreciated the power of the Russian soul. V. Belinsky was not interested in this side of the problem: he speaks about the mythologization devices and the well-judged activities to make it stable. Napoleon came to the collective consciousness like an invincible commander, and after that he implemented a lot of measures to extend the magical attraction of the regime on himself. The literator was responding controversies regarding Napoleon's coronation and he managed to express the understanding of Napoleon's logic like a state figure, who was estimating the particularities of the national psychology and also the arrangement of the supreme regime sacralization.

The intellectual dispositions were appeared and they changed the attitude to Napoleon essentially even before the appearance of two masterpieces – «Crime and Punishment» of F. Dostoevsky and L. Tolstoi's «War and Peace». What is meant here are the Slavophilism and the Westernism. The Napoleonic myth received freakish interpretations in each of them. The goal of this report is to bring to light the similarities and differences in attitudes to Napoleon in works of authors, whose reputation is bound firmly by two opposite concepts of Russian fates. This subject is

unfortunately still remaining out of researcher`s view. We can judge as researches on this subject just three of works. These are E. Matyushenko`s work «Napoleonic myth in Russia», G. Pomeranz` work «Napoleonic complex in the Russian literature» and R. Cherepanova`s «Napoleon Bonaparte like a character of the Russian national consciousness». Their conclusions are made however on the quite different stuff.