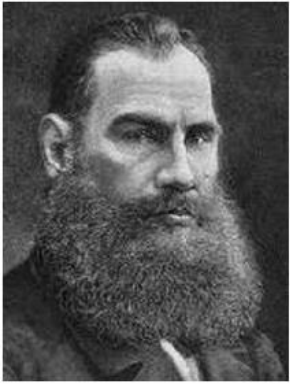


# The Wisdom of Tolstoy



Lev N. Tolstoy (1828-1910) wrote two of the great novels of the 19th century, *War and Peace* and *Anna Karenina*, along with other masterpieces. He corresponded with 50,000 people around the world in 15 languages, five of which he spoke fluently. His most enduring impact was philosophical, influencing Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr. with the paradigm of nonviolence.

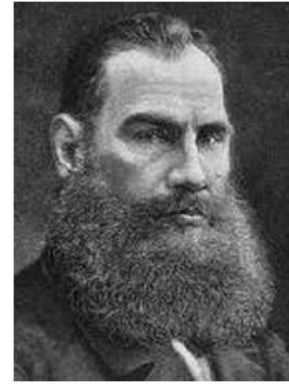
His vision for a nonkilling society earned him the title: 'The Conscience of Humanity'. Tolstoy's philosophy was universal and global in scope. His central message was that violence is incompatible with Love, which he considered to be the fundamental Law of Life. His essay on 'I cannot be silent' was an expression of his repugnance to the cruelty of violence and wars. For him, war became a crime against humanity and a slavery of our times.

Tolstoy's ideas of equality, transparency, nonkilling and compassion are as relevant today as they were in the 1800s. His ideas are gaining appeal as the most viable way for people to survive in our world community. Cooperation and bridge building are urgently needed to allow us to work together as worthy respected human beings on Planet Earth.

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Handout for 'Lev N. Tolstoy: Peace philosopher and literary figure,' a photo exhibit at the Ottawa Public Library, Main Branch, September 1-30, 2015, by Koozma J. Tarasoff, during the Ottawa Peace Festival 2015. Photos courtesy of The State Leo Tolstoy Museum, Moscow, RF, V. B. Remizov, Director.  
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