

# The New Criterion

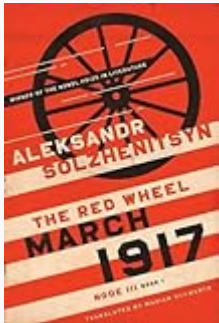
Features October 2017

## Solzhenitsyn's cathedrals

by Gary Saul Morson

*On the literary works of the Russian author Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn.*

### BOOKS IN THIS ARTICLE



*Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn*

*March 1917: The Red Wheel, Node III, Book 1 (The Center for Ethics and Culture Solzhenitsyn Series)*

University of Notre Dame Press, 672 pages, \$39.00

In Russia, history is too important to leave to the historians. Great novelists must show how people actually lived through events and reveal their moral significance. As Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn explained in his 1970 Nobel Prize lecture, literature transmits “condensed and irrefutable human experience” in a form that “defies distortion and falsehood. Thus literature . . . preserves and protects a nation’s soul.”

The latest Solzhenitsyn book to appear in English, *March 1917*, focuses on the great turning point of Russian, indeed world, history: the Russian Revolution.<sup>1</sup> Just a century ago, that upheaval and the Bolshevik coup eight months later ushered in something...

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**Gary Saul Morson**, the Lawrence B. Dumas Professor of the Arts and Humanities at Northwestern University, co-authored, with Morton Schapiro, *Cents and Sensibility* (Princeton).

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