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## The Image of Pierre Bezukhov in the Novel "War and Peace"

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#### **Article Information**

#### ABSTRACT

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**Keywords:** son of a wealthy socialite, illegitimate son, unwanted marriage, spiritual beauty, wealth and title, deceit and intrigue. In the article, the author examines the features of the formation and development of the image of Pierre Bezukhov in the novel "War and Peace", Tolstoy's attitude towards his favorite hero. The atmosphere in which the young count is located is shown, which will affect his further development.

L. N. Tolstoy calls Pierre Bezukhov, along with Andrei Bolkonsky, one of his favorite heroes. At the beginning of the novel, Pierre is the son of a wealthy socialite, but his mother was a commoner, and therefore officially Pierre could not be recognized as a count (this did not depend on the desire of the parent himself, but on the peculiarities of the legislation of that time). Therefore, the younger Bezukhov was not accepted in society, especially since he was not rich.

But everything changes dramatically after the old Count Bezukhov dies and leaves a huge inheritance to his illegitimate son. Pierre quickly becomes a man of the world and an enviable groom. However, this imposes its own difficulties: for example, an unwanted marriage. Pierre was a stranger in the world of secular society, and it took him many years to close the distance between himself and other representatives of high society. Being a well-educated and infinitely kind person, Bezukhov spent all his young years trying to find himself and his mission in this world. He repeatedly made mistakes on the path of life, but he never committed meanness and always followed the call of his heart.

It is noteworthy that L. N. Tolstoy deliberately endows his favorite characters with an unremarkable appearance - thereby he wanted to show that ideal people do not exist, and a person's soul should always be sought deep under his outer mask. The spiritual beauty of Pierre Bezukhov is gradually revealed in the work and shows his inner growth, while the hero goes through difficult times and tries his fate. With the help of Pierre L.N.Tolstoy shows how a simple and unsophisticated person can improve himself, come to personal happiness, create a family and achieve inner harmony.

By the end of the novel, Bezukhov becomes one of the few heroes who receives all the joys of life: a family, a worthy wife, children and a position in society. At the same time, Pierre, like other heroes, loses a lot: his father, best friend and first wife (who behaved unworthily in marriage) dies, he refuses a great mission and is disappointed in many of his ideals.

Already from the first lines of the novel, Pierre Bezukhov stands out among other heroes and the general mass of Russian society. He is young and weak, not rich (at least in the beginning), has no position in society and is impeccably kind, which was not characteristic of most of the nobles. In addition, Bezukhov does not know the rules of decency and does not think much about them, and the surprise of those around him does not bother him at all. Pierre says what he thinks and is not shy about being himself. Receiving a huge inheritance suddenly turns out to be a heavy burden for him: although wealth and title opened many doors for him, they also imposed many obligations on him, dragged him into deceit and intrigue. This was contrary to Pierre's nature, but, nevertheless, he was able to cope with all the trials that life imposed on him.

Many factors influenced the formation of the personality and views of Pierre Bezukhov. Initially, Pierre was a driven person, somewhat confused and in need of a wise mentor. He was brought up abroad in alienation from his father (albeit a loving one), therefore, without a male example nearby, Bezukhov grew up insecure and too trusting. So, for example, his gentleness and inability to defend his interests led to the fact that Pierre married an unloved woman and was not accepted in society. However, over time, Bezukhov was able to learn to appreciate human life (including his own) and built up a kind of "armor" from public opinion. PlatonKarataev, a simple man from the Russian army, whom Pierre met in French captivity, had a great influence on the growing up of the hero.

Pierre found true love in a relationship with his longtime girlfriend Natasha Rostova. For a long time he could not court this girl, although he liked her very much. Pierre was stopped by the fact that Andrei Bolkonsky was also in love with Natasha and was even going to marry her. Possessing inner nobility, Bezukhov never made an attempt to express his sympathy for Rostova either during her engagement to Bolkonsky, or even after their breakup. Pierre could only afford to court the girl when Andrei Bolkonsky died.

In 1813, Pierre was already 28 years old. During his life he saw a lot and learned a lot. And as a result, he came to the idea that love and family can become the main value in his life. The union with Natasha Rostova became truly happy for him, as he and his wife understood each other perfectly and were able to give each other what they lacked

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