



ARTISTIC AND PHILOSOPHICAL INTERPRETATION OF HUMAN DESTINY IN THE WORKS OF ERICH MARIA REMARQUE

Mamashayeva Mastura Mamasoliyevna

Senior Teacher, Namangan State University

E-mail: masturamamashayeva@gmail.com

ANNOTATION. This article analyzes the problem of human destiny in the works of Erich Maria Remarque from both artistic and philosophical perspectives. It explores the changes in human psychology during the war and post-war periods, as well as reveals the issues of spiritual crisis and the ideas of humanism.

Keywords:

human destiny, war, humanism, spiritual crisis, psychologism, lost generation, love, philosophical interpretation

Introduction

The twentieth century was marked by unprecedented historical upheavals that reshaped not only political systems but also human consciousness. Among the writers who reflected these dramatic transformations, Erich Maria Remarque occupies a prominent place. His works are deeply rooted in the tragic experiences of war and its aftermath, focusing on the fate of individuals whose lives were irreversibly altered by violence, loss, and existential uncertainty.

Remarque's literary worldview is centered on the idea that human destiny is not merely a sequence of personal events but a complex interaction between the individual and historical reality. His novels explore how extreme conditions such as war strip away illusions and expose the fragile essence of human existence.



War as a Tragic Force Shaping Human Destiny

One of the central themes in Remarque's works is the destructive nature of war. In *All Quiet on the Western Front*, the author portrays young soldiers who enter the battlefield with naive expectations but soon confront the brutal reality of violence and death. War, in this context, becomes a force that annihilates not only physical life but also moral values and psychological stability. The protagonist, Paul Bäumer, symbolizes an entire generation whose youth was consumed by war. His internal conflict reflects the loss of identity and purpose experienced by many soldiers. The trauma they endure does not end with the war; it continues to haunt them even in times of peace. Remarque rejects the glorification of war and instead presents it as a meaningless catastrophe. Through realistic and often stark descriptions, he emphasizes that war dehumanizes individuals and reduces them to mere instruments of survival.

Post-war Reality and Spiritual Crisis

The aftermath of war in Remarque's novels is characterized by a deep sense of disillusionment and alienation. In *Three Comrades*, the characters struggle to adapt to civilian life in a society marked by economic instability and moral decay. Although the war has ended, its psychological consequences persist. This post-war environment creates what can be described as a spiritual vacuum. Individuals feel disconnected from society and unable to find meaning in everyday life. The concept of the "lost generation" emerges from this context, representing those who were psychologically and emotionally scarred by war. Remarque's characters often experience loneliness and existential anxiety. They question traditional values and



search for new sources of meaning. This search becomes a defining aspect of their destiny.

Love and Friendship as Means of Survival

Despite the overwhelming presence of tragedy, Remarque's works also highlight the importance of human relationships. Love and friendship serve as vital forces that help individuals cope with suffering and maintain their humanity. In *Arch of Triumph*, the relationship between the main characters demonstrates how love can provide emotional support even in the most difficult circumstances. Although their lives are shaped by exile and political oppression, they find moments of genuine connection and understanding. Friendship, particularly among war veterans, plays a crucial role in overcoming trauma. It creates a sense of solidarity and shared experience, which helps characters endure their hardships. These relationships do not eliminate suffering but make it more bearable.

Philosophical Dimensions of Human Destiny

From a philosophical perspective, Remarque's works can be associated with existentialist ideas. His characters are often confronted with the absurdity of life and the inevitability of death. They must make choices in a world that offers no clear moral guidelines.

Human destiny, in this sense, is shaped by both external circumstances and internal responses. While individuals cannot control historical events such as war, they can choose how to react to them. This emphasis on personal responsibility and inner strength reflects a deeply humanistic outlook. Remarque also stresses the intrinsic value of human life. He condemns war as a violation of human dignity and



advocates for compassion, empathy, and understanding. His works remind readers that even in the darkest times, it is possible to preserve one's humanity.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the works of Erich Maria Remarque offer a profound exploration of human destiny in the context of war and social upheaval. Through realistic narratives and psychological depth, the author reveals the devastating impact of war on individuals and society. At the same time, Remarque emphasizes the resilience of the human spirit. His characters endure suffering, loss, and alienation, yet they continue to search for meaning and preserve their moral values. This dual perspective — tragedy combined with hope — defines the artistic and philosophical significance of his works. Remarque's legacy remains highly relevant today, as his ideas about human dignity, peace, and moral responsibility continue to resonate in a world still affected by conflict and instability.

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