

Title: Ilya Oblomov as a Late-Soviet Conservative
Author: Pavel Khazanov, European University Institute

Abstract:

In the 1960s and 1970s, the Soviet neo-Slavophile critic Iurii Loshchits and the filmmaker Nikita Mikhalkov radically reinterpreted Goncharov's classic 1859 novel as a manifesto of a conservative individual subject – someone who alone cannot resist the inexorably advancing historical evil of Western liberal modernity, and who therefore for moral reasons withdraws from action in the world. My paper contextualizes this interpretation within the development of an anti-Soviet ideological discourse on Russia's Imperial past, which, I argue, took shape among both liberal and conservative intellectuals and their audiences, during the Thaw and the Brezhnev decades.