

Dostoevskian indictment of Marxist dialectic that sold half a million copies in France in the two years following its controversial publication there in 1945. No surprise then that the subject of Frank's first Gauss Lecture at Princeton University in 1955 was "Existentialism and Dostoevsky." He pursued the association further in the doctoral dissertation he wrote for the Committee on Social Thought at the University of Chicago, "Dostoevsky and Russian Nihilism: A Context for *Notes from the Underground*" (1960).

But Frank's big "Dostoevskii" evolved, after a long germination, into something other than a scholarly study of the writer's thought or formal device—into a full-fledged critical biography of the author. What was to be volume 1 of the 5-volume sequence, *The Seeds of Revolt*, came out in 1976 two decades after Frank had begun teaching comparative literature and directing the Gauss Seminars in Criticism at Princeton University. A genre as capacious as the novel, biography allows one to embrace historical context, ideas, and psychology, along with all manner of human contingency. And just as Dostoevskii's novels recapitulated his own commitments and dramatized the ideological and metaphysical conflicts of his age, so Frank's biography of the great Russian was called forth by Frank's own life, his own commitments, and the historical struggles of his own age. Neither author turned toward fiction and biography by accident: for both, only art (and critical biography is the novel's closest cousin) was capable of giving these disparate elements a coherent and human form. Reading Frank's *Dostoevsky* is to hear the challenge and response of two giants, towering like sentinels, each over his own century. No better tribute to a critic is possible.

This is how, then, to borrow a phrase from Frank's *Idea of Spatial Form*, "the time world of history becomes transmuted into the timeless world of myth," or to paraphrase W. H. Auden's tribute to W. B. Yeats, a great man of letters becomes his admirers. The mark that Joseph Frank's legacy left on the study of Russian literature and culture in the larger Euro-American context is indelible and deep.

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## Gale Stokes, 1933–2012

For well-nigh two decades after World War II the communist regimes of eastern Europe kept western scholars at arms' length. Predictably, given its semi-independent stance, Yugoslavia was one of the first to relax this attitude. And Gale Stokes was one of the first to take advantage of the change. It was a fitting symbol of incipient détente, because after graduating from Colgate University, in Hamilton, New York, Gale had served for nine years as an officer in the United States Air Force. He then decided to turn swords into, if not plowshares, then scholarship. He enrolled at Indiana University where, after completing a Master's degree, he read for a PhD. His chosen area was the Balkans and his advisor the widely respected Charles Jelavich. Given the latter's expertise in Yugoslav affairs it was not surprising that Gale chose to specialize in Serbian history. Thus, with the help of a Fulbright-Hayes dissertation grant, Gale and his devoted wife, Roberta, headed to Belgrade for eighteen months in 1967–68.

In Belgrade Gale worked mainly in the Serbian state archives and in those of the influential organization, *Matica Srbska*. His focus was on Serbian politics in the mid-nineteenth century, and his labors bore fruit in his first book, *Legitimacy through Liberalism: Vladimir Jovanović and the Transformation of Serbian Politics* (University

of Washington Press, 1975). It was groundbreaking work. Few intensively researched, sharply focused monographs on Balkan history had been published in the west, not least because of the socialist regimes' reluctance to host western researchers. Gale argued that, whereas in the west political liberalism had come about as the consequence of economic and social change, in Serbia the reverse was the case and that in Serbia "the first liberals hoped that economic and social change would be an outgrowth of liberalism" (xiii). The same basic arguments underlay a more generalized treatment of this specific phenomenon: *Politics as Development: The Emergence of Political Parties in Nineteenth Century Serbia* (Duke University Press, 1990.) The relationship between political groups and the wider world of economic, social, and intellectual development was to be a constant theme of Gale's work.

The tumultuous events of the late 1980s and early 1990s in eastern Europe and the Balkans inevitably engaged Gale's attention, and it is probably his contributions to the debates on those events and their significance that will be his most enduring scholastic legacy. In 1991 he published an edited collection of documents, *From Stalinism to Pluralism: A Documentary History of Eastern Europe since 1945* (Oxford University Press, 1991). This was followed two years later by the greatly, and justly, acclaimed *The Walls Came Tumbling Down: The Collapse of Communism in Eastern Europe* (Oxford University Press, 1993). It was the first major study of the 1989 revolutions to place those events in a historical context rather than a political science laboratory. He also placed them in a wider intellectual framework, just as he did with the Serbian liberals in his first book. Gale postulated, convincingly, that the great turning point was the Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968, which ended all prospect of effective internal reform of the sclerotic Soviet system. *The Walls Came Tumbling Down* also argued that the twentieth century was dominated by two malign forces: the anti-rationalism of fascism and the hyper-rationalism of the Marxist movements. Both failed, he argued, and because of that the areas affected by these forces turned to the pluralism that had served the west comparatively well. Further examination and astute analysis of modern turning points in the history of central and eastern Europe came in *Three Eras of Political Change in Eastern Europe* (Oxford University Press, 1997). In later years Gale made further valuable contributions to the debate on 1989 and also wrote on wider topics, such as the nature of nationalism and of the nation state. Toward the end of his career he applied his sharp, analytical mind to world and macro-histories.

Gale's scholarship won widespread recognition. In 1994 *The Walls Came Tumbling Down* earned him the Vucinich Prize, awarded by the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies (now the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies) for the best book in the field of Russian, Eurasian, and East European studies. In the following year he received the Distinguished Alumni Award from Indiana University's Russian and East European Institute. Other marks of recognition were visiting fellowships at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Washington, D.C. (1990–91), the Institute for Sino-Soviet Studies, George Washington University (1991), and Sawyer Scholar, University of Michigan (1997).

In 1968 Gale joined the Department of History at Rice University, Houston. He remained there for his entire professional career, and in 1997 was appointed Mary Gibbs Jones Professor of History. He became Mary Gibbs Jones Professor Emeritus when he retired in 2005.

Gale was a consummate professional. Three times he was awarded the George R. Brown Award for Superior Teaching, and he played a full and responsible role in administration, serving twice as head of the Department of History (1980–82 and 1997–2000). He also took on the wider burden of the Deanship of the School of Humanities from 2000 to 2003. But he did not confine his administrative work to Rice. He sat on

a number of editorial boards, including that of *Slavic Studies* (1974–84 and 1992–96), and from 1995 to 1997 was associate editor of *Problems of Communism*. He served on the Joint Committee on Eastern Europe of the American Council of Learned Societies, and in 2003 he served as president of both the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies and the Social Science Research Council, of which he was chair from 1986 to 1989.

Gale's contribution to scholarship and to academic life will be remembered and appreciated by many. For a smaller number of us there are the more cherished memories of Gale as friend and companion. I first met him in Belgrade sometime in the mid-1970s at a long and fairly bibulous dinner. And if, because of the constraints of geography, our meetings were not frequent, they were always immensely pleasurable. Gale was an enchanting and rewarding colleague and companion. He wore his considerable learning and knowledge with an easy air, and his sense of justice and fairness was ever-present but never overasserted; it was bolstered by a steady and profound religious conviction. His convivial spirit, graced by an infectious and impish laugh, were accompanied by a sophisticated and cultured mind and an appreciation of art, music, and, not least, folk dancing. He and Roberta were marvelous hosts, and I can only hope that Gale enjoyed his visit to my home, then in Canterbury, as much as I enjoyed staying with him and Roberta in Houston.

We have lost an imposing and dedicated colleague. And I have lost a valued and much-loved friend.

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