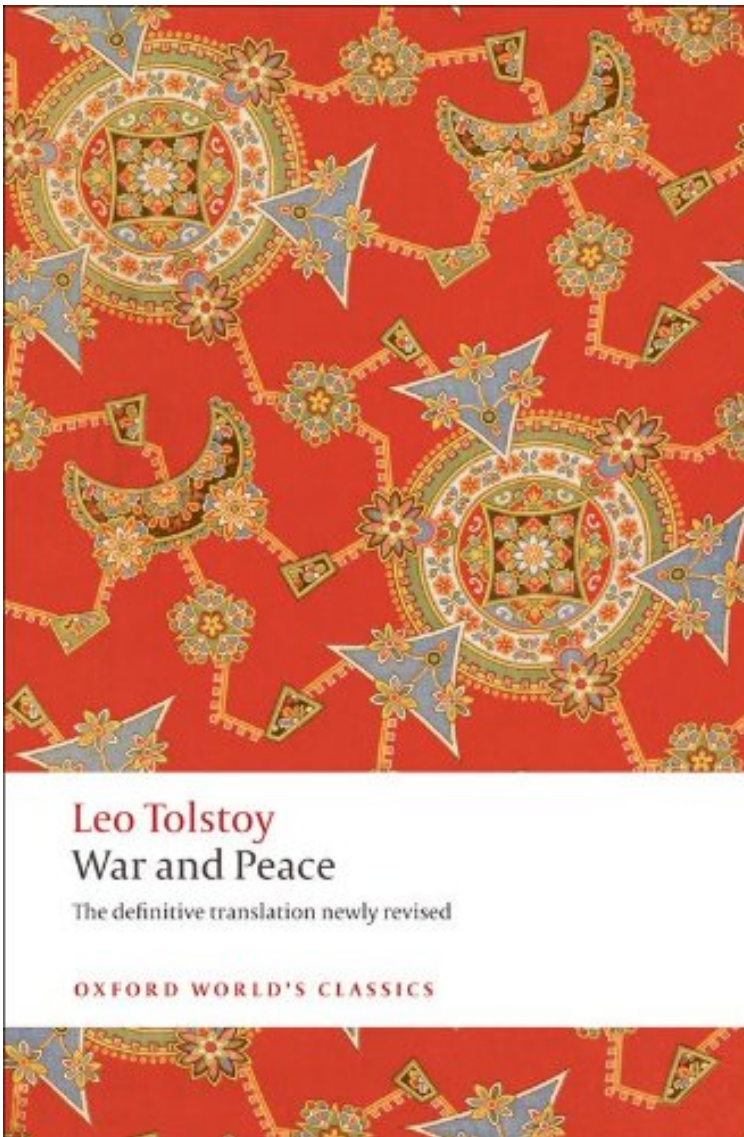


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How is it that we women don't want anything of the kind, don't need it?Tolstoy's epic masterpiece intertwines the lives of private and public individuals during the time of the Napoleonic wars and the French invasion of Russia. The fortunes of the Rostovs and the Bolkonskys, of Pierre, Natasha, and Andrei, are intimately connected with the national history that is played out in parallel with their lives. Balls and soires alternate with councils of war and the machinations of statesmen and generals, scenes of violent battles with everyday human passions in awork whose extraordinary imaginative power has never been surpassed. The prodigious cast of characters, both great and small, seem to act and move as if connected by threads of destiny as the novel relentlessly questions ideas of free will, fate, and providence. Yet Tolstoy's portrayal of

maritalrelations and scenes of domesticity is as truthful and poignant as the grand themes that underlie them. In this definitive and highly acclaimed Maude translation, Tolstoy's genius and the power of his prose are made newly available to the contemporary reader. In addition this edition includes a new introduction by

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Tolstoy's essay 'Some Words about War and Peace'. Biographie de l'auteur Amy Mandelker has taught at UCLA, University of Southern California, Columbia, Brown and Princeton Universities. Her books include Framing Anna Karenina: Tolstoy, the Woman Question and the Novel of Adultery (1993) and Approaches to World Literature: Teaching Tolstoy's 'Anna Karenina' and she has introduced the Barnes and Noble edition of Anna Karenina.