



### Nonviolence and the Grand Inquisitor

A Dostoevskian Framework for Political Theory

By Alexei Anisin

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**Develops a new ethical framework for understanding nonviolence through Dostoevsky's "Legend of the Grand Inquisitor," bridging literature, philosophy, and activism with insights from thinkers like Gandhi, Žižek, and Judith Butler**

This monograph develops a new ethical framework for understanding nonviolence through leveraging Dostoevsky's parable of the "Legend of the Grand Inquisitor" from *The Brothers Karamazov*. In doing so, it engages in a critical examination of classical and contemporary theories of nonviolence and engages with prominent thinkers ranging from Gandhi to Žižek to Judith Butler. The book also integrates literary analysis with empirical data and presents readers with innovative perspectives on the efficacy and challenges that nonviolence poses activists in different contemporary socio-political contexts. With interdisciplinary appeal, this monograph identifies under-explored connections between literature, philosophy, and civil resistance which makes it a valuable resource for academics and activists alike.

#### Readership

The readers of this book fall into four categories: First, scholars of Mediterranean studies, nationalism, international relations, and state-specific history and society. Second, students of those same topics, both in terms of assigned reading and reference material. Third, policy practitioners looking for historical context on problems they are concerned with. Fourth, members of the general public interested in the history of and contemporary issues facing the Mediterranean region.

#### Key selling points

Presents the first application of Dostoevsky's "Legend of the Grand Inquisitor" to the theory and ethics of nonviolence  
Bridges classical literature and contemporary political theory on nonviolence in an interdisciplinary manner  
Combines theory with empirical analysis of resistance movements spanning two centuries  
Is relevant to scholars, activists, and general readers interested in nonviolence, Dostoevsky, and political power

#### About the Author(s) / Editor(s)

**Alexei Anisin**, PhD, is research fellow in the Centre for Ethics as Study in Human Value in the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies at the University of Pardubice, Czech Republic and has widely published on nonviolence and civil resistance.

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