

## Pure Walking Evil (Propaganda)

Reading *The Devils*, or *The Possessed*. First year of York University, 1981. Politics and the Novel. Dostoevski's darkness afflicts my mind. South Africa many years later. Coetzee's *The Master of Petersburg*. '81 is an Ashes summer, Botham's year. England win 3-1. I cheer up. But not at Dostoevski's lampooning of liberals: *Oui, cette Russe, que j'aimais toujours...* But it's true, I've still never been there, but I do. Old Man Verkhovenski's a fool, but it's better than a terrorist son. Stephan and Petr. Or is he responsible? Later, I read Camus' stage adaptation. I'd like to read Chernyshevski, but I've never got round to it. *What Is To Be Done?* Another one who didn't like Turgenev. Stalin was jealous as hell of Dr. Goebbels, the ultimate political PR man. My dad spoke to me about Dr. G. constantly as a child. The man in charge of Lord Haw Haw of course. I grew up in England, a country still obsessed by the war. The film *The Battle Of Britain* didn't come out until 1970 and played for weeks at my local cinema. The Messerschmidts were fakes though. England won the World Cup in 1966, but lost to the still divided (West) Germany at the quarter finals in 1970, Kaiser Franz Beckenbauer playing a blinder. What an ambassador. Oh, but the English stood alone in 1940, and that's true but have you ever heard of the *phoney war*? Didn't stop the first wife's father going *tail end Charlie* though. Lucky he survived. *A true gentlemen*. Would history have been different if Halifax had been Prime Minister? I can't see how Operation Sea Lion was ever going to work though. That's what Guderian told Hitler as well. *What is faith and how do you generate it?* Well, the Congress for the Doctrine of the Faith at the Vatican should know I suppose, but yes, it's Dostoevski you're listening to when Dr. Goebbels addresses Pastor Niemöller in the prison, even if he did fail his seminary exams. *The Grand Inquisitor*. Never read *The Brothers Karamazov* in full though. Must get round to it. *Faith, faith, faith...* But which one? Judaism, Christianity, Islam... Socialism, Liberalism, Capitalism... Which one do you believe in? Have you ever thought about it? Not Dr. Goebbels' faith, surely?...

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