



On the Iron Gatepost

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Section A - Novel - *On the Iron Gatepost*

Length - approximately 80,000 words

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Section B - Exegesis

Length - approximately 23,000 words

Abstract

The thesis is a historical fiction novel titled, *On the Iron Gatepost*, and is approximately 80,000 words. There is also an exegesis of approximately 23,000 words that addresses the genesis of the creative work from the first drafts to the finished product. It includes research on White Russians who lived in northwest China and the processes of writing the novel.

The novel is based on a community of White Russians who lived in remote northwest China. The account covers the period from 1957 to 1960 but there are flashbacks to the 1800s and onwards. The focus is on Ekaterina and her family whose life changes dramatically after the communist takeover. There are 28 chapters with italicised history sections alongside the historical fiction. The account is chronological and is a story of faith and survival.