

# **Epicurus and His Influence on History, Ben Gazur,**

**Post by “Cleveland Okie” of April 5, 2025 at 7:24 PM**

This is a really great point, Cassius, and I appreciate you taking the time to post this.

One of my hobbies is Russian classical music, and Sviatoslav Richter is maybe my favorite all time piano player. Richter was pretty careful to avoid politics and pretty much concentrated on providing his artistry to as many people as possible. Yet he showed up and performed at Boris Pasternak's funeral, certainly a risky thing to do in the old Soviet Union.

For that matter, Dimitri Shostakovich was not in any way a "dissident" and to my knowledge never did anything to deliberately antagonize the authorities. Yet he helped fellow composer Mieczysław Weinberg at considerable personal risk.

Perhaps Richter and Shostakovich got away with it, like some of the things Titus Pomponius "Atticus" did, because it was obvious they were motivated by loyalty and friendship, and not being "political"?