

Abstract

After 1917, the territory of the former tsarist Russia witnessed significant changes in society. One of them was a different approach to children's education. The emerging Soviet state sought to create a new modern society based on the Bolshevik concept of communism. In relation to children and youth, it deliberately sought to create an educational system with the aim of forming a new Soviet person from an early age. This dissertation explores the nature of the connection between pre-war and post-war Russian, or Soviet, pedagogy, how the Bolsheviks were able to use modern methods of education to their advantage, and what the implications of this were for the education of Soviet children and youth. The thesis first presents, in general terms, the theoretical framework of Bolshevik considerations on the emergence of a new society and explains how the understanding of the concept of the "new man" evolved. It presents the theoretical conception of the 'new Soviet man' and also specifies the reasons why children and youth were the ideal population group for the Bolshevik government to expect to begin the rebuilding of society. In particular, the dissertation traces the transformation of the education system in the forming Soviet Union from 1917 to the early 1930s. It first focuses on the Bolsheviks' debated notion of the ideal form of education of society and the education of the new Soviet man as it resonated in the first decade of the Soviet Union's existence. At that time, addressing practical needs was mixed with the introduction of measures based on the utopian ideas of some leading Soviet officials. Subsequently, the thesis focuses on the long-thought-out project of the system of alternative schools by the educator Stanislav Shatsky, whose greatest development occurred in the early years of the Soviet Union in the form of the so-called First Experimental Station, an educational institution comprising a system of primary schools, libraries, kindergartens, secondary schools, and the children's colony of Bodraya Zhizn.

