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Changing the state´s approach to education of children after 1917

After 1917, there were significant changes in society in the former Russian Empire.

One of them was a different approach in relation to education of children. The emerging

Soviet state sought to create a new modern society, based on Bolshevik communism.

According to Bolshevik ideology, the emerging system of raising children and young people

was to lead to a reversal in the traditional conception of the family, to exclude women from

household care and to interrupt the intergenerational transfer of knowledge and experience.

The main intention in the institutionalized educational system was to develop a new collective

identity in children and to instill in them a Bolshevik worldview as the only correct one. The

newly created system emphasized a common form of education, adored the moral value of

physical labor, and preferred social interests defined by the Bolshevik Party over individual

ones. In relation to children and youth, it purposefully created a solid order and organization.

In the rhetoric of the time, it was about forming a new Soviet man from an early age.

The aim of the dissertation is to analyze the early period of the transformation of

Soviet education, which can be dated to the twenties. In its first part, the work presents the

starting points of the Soviet regime for the reform of Soviet education. Most of the work is

devoted to the analysis of the application of ongoing reforms in practice in the case of one

particular school, which operated in the territory of today´s Kaluga district.