

DOI 10.28995/2073-0101-2018-3-704-716

Olga A. Shashkova

Russian State University for the Humanities, Russian State Archive of Social and Political History, Moscow, Russian Federation

Marina A. Shpakovskaya

Peoples' Friendship University of Russia, Moscow, Russian Federation

The Communist University of the Toilers of the East (KUTV): Its Establishment under the Comintern in 1920s-30s

Abstract

The article reviews major milestones in the history of the Communist University of the Toilers of the East (KUTV) and its role in formation of the Soviet-centric political avant-garde in some countries of the East. The creation of this educational institution was connected with the resolution of the Central Committee of the RCP(b) of January 21, 1921 On Organization of the Eastern Courses under the People's Commissariat of Nationalities (Narkomnats), later enshrined in the decree of the All-Russian Central Executive Committee (April 21, 1921). The university firmly established itself within the vast network of international institutions of the Comintern. Although it had never been quantitatively dominant in the institute, the Sector 'A' (or the Special Sector, or the Inosektor, as this department for international students was known in different periods) was crucial for the development of its complex system, as the policy of the 3rd International formed the core of its activities. The modest historiography on the history of the university in the Soviet period describes its development as overcoming difficulties in on-going forward movement. A more comprehensive picture emerges in the documents from the KUTV archival fond stored in the RGASPI (fond 532). 12,000 files of the fond include about 10,000 personal files of students and teachers. They show the sinuosities of the KUTV history from its organization to high noon of its activities and to its end in consequence of the restructuring of the party education system in the USSR in 1938. The university accumulated unique experience of training almost illiterate people to become middle-ranking executives in a very short time. A considerable part of the future leaders of colonial countries passed through the university. This Comintern coordinated process secured Soviet national interests. The university also laid the basis for Soviet Oriental studies. All this does not allow to call the university a purely propagandistic institution for 'export' of the world revolution and prompts to look behind utilitarian ideological clichés. The article studies its unique experience in forming the national elites of the Oriental countries, which were to become communist champions of world revolution, and thus provides a professional-level picture of the university organization and management that recognized special nature of the multiethnic student body. It introduces statistical and personal data on the graduates that prove the efficiency of the university. The study may be of interest to political technologists, who determine mode of modern universities' interaction with the Oriental countries.

Download the article: [shashkova_shpakovskaya_doi](#)

Keywords

Communist University of the Toilers of the East (KUTV), Comintern, the party school, national interests, teaching methodology, Department 'A' (Inosector).

References

VIKTOROV, V. Kommunisticheskii universitet trudyashchikhsya Vostoka (KUTV) [The Communist University of the Toilers of the East (KUTV). In Russ.] IN: Zhizn' natsional'nostei [The life of ethnic groups], 1923, book 1, pp. 261-267.

Kommunisticheskii universitet trudyashchikhsya Vostoka. Ocherk deyatel'nosti. (Oktyabr' 1921 goda — yanvar' 1924 goda) [The Communist University of the Toilers of the East (KUTV). Essay on activities. (October 1921 — January 1924). In Russ.]. Moscow, Otd. pechati i informatsii NKN publ., 1924, 44 p.

SOKOLOV, A. A. Komintern i V'etnam. Podgotovka v'etnamskikh politicheskikh kadrov v kommunisticheskikh vuzakh SSSR, 20-30-e gody: (Ist.-polit. ocherk). [Comintern and Vietnam. Preparation of Vietnamese political personnel in communist universities of the USSR, 1920-30s: A historical and political essay. In Russ.]. Moscow, 1998, 1803 p.

SULTANZADE, A. Ekonomicheskoe razvitie Persii i angliiskii imperializm [The economic development of Persia and British imperialism. In Russ.]. IN: Trudy NIA pri KUTV [Proceedings of the NIA KUTV]. Issue 3. Moscow, 1930.

TIMOFEEVA, N. N. Kommunisticheskii universitet trudyashchikhsya Vostoka (KUTV) (1921-1925) [The Communist University of the Toilers of the East (KUTV) (1921-1925). In Russ.] IN: Narody Azii I Afriki, 1976, no. 2, pp. 47-57.

TIMOFEEVA, N. N. Kommunisticheskii universitet trudyashchikhsya Vostoka (KUTV) (1926-1938) [The Communist University of the Toilers of the East (KUTV) (1926-1938). In Russ.] IN: Narody Azii I Afriki, 1979, no. 5, pp. 30-42.

Formy i metody rukovodstva samostoyatel'noi rabotoi studentov [Forms and methods of guiding students' individual work. In Russ.]. Moscow, 1927, 56 p.

KHARUNOV, R. Sh. Podgotovka spetsialistov dlya Tuvy na kursakh khoshunnykh rabotnikov v Kommunisticheskom universitete trudyashchikhsya Vostoka (1929-1933 g.). [Training of specialists for Tuva at the courses of Khoshun workers in the Communist University of the Toilers of the East (1929-1933) In Russ.] IN: Vestnik Tuvinskogo gosudarstvennogo universiteta. Sotsial'nye i gumanitarnye nauki [Bulletin of the Tuva State University. Social and human sciences]. Issue 1. Kyzyl, 2012, pp. 58-61.

About author

Shashkova Olga Aleksandrovna, PhD in History, Russian State University for the Humanities, assistant professor, Russian State Archive of Socio-Political History, chief specialist, Moscow, Russian Federation, +7-916-216-06-97, o-shashkova@yandex.ru

Shpakovskaya Marina Anatolyevna, PhD in History, Peoples' Friendship University of Russia, professor, Moscow, Russian Federation, +7-915-191-03-27, shpakovskaya_ma@pfur.ru

Submitted 16.03.2018, published:

SHASHKOVA, O. A., SHPAKOVSKAYA, M. A. Kommunisticheskii universitet trudyashchikhsya Vostoka: sozdanie i etapy stanovleniya v sisteme Komintern v 1920-1930-e gg. [The Communist University of the Toilers of the East (KUTV): Its Establishment under the Comintern in 1920s-30s. In Russ.]. IN: Vestnik arhivista / Herald of an Archivist, 2018, no. 3, pp. 704-716. doi 10.28995/2073-0101-2018-3-704-716

You can read completely article in the russian historic-archival magazine “The Herald of an Archivist”. Read more about terms of subscription [here](#) .

Полностью материал публикуется в российском историко-архивоведческом журнале ВЕСТНИК АРХИВИСТА. Ознакомьтесь с условиями подписки [здесь](#) .