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Formation of the “Soviet Human Capital” in the Higher Education in the 1930s.

Abstract

The article addresses various aspects of the Bolsheviks' policies in formation of the new Soviet student community in the 1930s. In the view of the Soviet government, new man, obedient and energetic builder of the socialist society, should not be burdened by the past, its images, traditions, and customs, be it at the mundane or social level. As a result, there were major changes in the family policy aimed at equalization of men and women and at fighting patriarchy. The article discusses the implications of this policy for the student environment and changes in the Soviet policy toward students in the 1930s. As has been mentioned in the preceding article,

In the 1920s the state regarded higher education as an institute for “production” of “human capital,” as well as that of specialists. In its social and political practices of the 1930s, the AUCP (B) continued to realize the concept of Soviet higher education system and formation of the “Soviet human capital.” But these years saw certain changes and adjustments: while in the 1920s the emphasis was placed on essential radical measures, in the following decade the ruling party returned to the traditional, classical models of educational process in its activities in the field of higher education, with due regard to grandiose plans for socialist construction. The authors reveal a correlation between the negative consequences of the 1920s transformations and the subsequent reaction of the state aiming at resolution of problematic situations.

Keywords

Archival documents, human capital, students, Soviet higher education, family, youth, socio-cultural values.

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