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Role of Soviet-party schools in strengthening rural organizations of the Russian Communist Party (Bolsheviks) based on archival materials from the Vyatka province in the first half of the 1920s

Abstract

The article is devoted to the role of Soviet-Party schools in the Vyatka province in the first half of the 1920s in strengthening the rural organizations of the Russian Communist Party (Bolsheviks), RCP (b). The paper is written based on documents from the archival collections of the Central State Archive of the Kirov Region (KR CSA), which are being introduced into scientific circulation for the first time: the Vyatka Provincial Committee of the RCP (b) and the Kirov Interregional Soviet-Party School. The objective of the study is to analyze the process of formation of the party education system in the province in the first half of the 1920s. The author sets the following objectives: to determine the features of the formation of Soviet party schools and to clarify their role in the personnel and ideological strengthening of rural organizations of the RCP (b). The novelty of the study lies in the fact that this is the first attempt in local historiography to analyze the process of formation of Soviet party schools in the Vyatka region and their activities in training personnel for rural party and Soviet organizations. The article is based on archival materials using the principle of historicism and the method of historical institutionalism. The personnel shortage characteristic of the country's regions and the low literacy rate among party members motivated the creation of party and Soviet schools and universities designed to train ideological workers well-versed in the practical aspects of party and Soviet development. It was revealed that no systematic work to train personnel for rural organizations in the province had been conducted until the end of 1919. An analysis of the schools' development revealed that before the onset of the New Economic Policy (NEP), conditions for their operation were extremely unfavorable: teaching and methodological materials were lacking, and the material base was extremely weak. Cadets were frequently removed from classes and sent on urgent campaigns. The situation changed at the beginning of

the NEP, when the country transitioned to peaceful construction and the need for responsible, practical leaders increased sharply. It was during this period that the schools began to transform into a veritable forge of party cadres. The school's shift toward training personnel for rural organizations began in 1923 and became more pronounced in the summer and fall of 1924. Schools in Russia's agricultural regions were encouraged to address the economic, cultural, and political objectives of rural work, as well as to introduce elements of local history into the curriculum. Research by cadets assumed a special role, and the study of the history of the RCP (b) was linked to the practical implementation of party work and party leadership outside of school throughout the course of the Soviet party school. The school's cadets successfully organized traveling rural schools and conducted sponsored work in the volosts of the Vyatka district, acquiring the relevant practical skills.

Keywords

Soviet party schools, Russian Communist Party (Bolsheviks), Vyatka provincial committee of the RCP (b), district committees, rural cells, Central Committee of the RCP (b), «facing the village», agrarian regions of Soviet Russia, sponsored work, Vyatka province, historical sources.

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