

Changes in Soviet universities

New regulations in Soviet higher education institutions

The Council of People's Commissars and the Central Executive Committee has issued a regulation, signed by Stalin and Molotov, regulating higher education in the USSR.

The regulation covers all areas of life and scientific work of universities and is justified by the fact that, given the existing university regulations, the student environment has always been unsatisfactory. Scientific plans were changing and there was a lack of permanent textbooks. Practical work was insufficient, which was mainly due to the lack of laboratories and necessary equipment.

The new regulation regulates the acceptance of new students, study dates, scientific works, higher education management, as well as order and discipline in higher education institutions.

The right to study at Soviet higher education institutions is available to all Soviet citizens aged 17-35, who have gained a certificate of completion of secondary school education.

In addition to this, an entrance examination is required, entitling the student to admission to a university. The entrance examination consists of a test in Russian literature (written work), grammar, politics, mathematics, physics and chemistry. From 1937, also one foreign language (English, German or French).

Young people entering higher agricultural and commerce institutions or higher economic institutions must still sit a supplementary exam in geography. Candidates from humanities schools of higher education (history, philology, law) must sit an examination in history and geography. In other special higher education institutions, there are examinations in certain special subjects.

University registrations take place in autumn, at which time one can also join another research institute, but only students in the first two semesters can change their studies.

According to the new regulation,

the only measures of students' progress will be examinations in a given subject and in practical work. The final examination will be taken before a state board.

Two degrees have been established for university graduates. A first-level degree will be awarded to students who pass exams with "excellence". A second-level degree will be awarded to students with a "satisfactory" assessment.

Graduates, with a first-level degree, will benefit from priority when positions are being filled and a number of them will be assigned to be sent on research trips within the country or abroad.

The new regulations introduce discipline into universities among both student and professors. Public, party or commercial organisations cannot divert students from their learning. Academic plans must be carefully carried out. Only students, supervisors and other school staff are permitted to be on the premises of higher education institutions.

Anti-German sentiments in England

In England, very influential circles have begun a campaign aimed at showing that the greatest threat to England could come from Germany.

Since the circles know how hard it is to arouse war fervour in England,

they are trying to create the right atmosphere by proving that Germany is the most dangerous to the tradition of freedom in the continent.

This statement of affairs clearly

proves that it is best for Germans to be aware of the change that has taken place in England and that they understand well that Great Britain cannot accept the disregard shown by Germany towards the concerns of the British people.

Maksym Gorky

A few words to the antisemites

Hatred of Jews is a biological phenomenon. It should be combatted against in the interests of the development of social sentiments and social culture.

Jews are exactly the same people as us, just like everyone else. Like all other people, Jews should also be free.

We have every reason to consider the Jews as our friends. We have much for which to be grateful.

I cannot talk about antisemitism as it should be talked about. And it is not because I lack the strength or the words, but because there is an obstacle that I cannot remove.

I could find enough harsh, heavy and threatening words to throw in the face of all the enemies of humanity.

But, to do this, I would have to lower myself to the level of those people for whom I feel only contempt, whom I cannot abide organically.

I am inclined to believe that antisemitism cannot be doubted, just as the existence of leprosy or syphilis cannot be doubted. I am convinced that the world will be cured of this wicked disease thanks only to culture which, although at a too slow pace, liberates us from these types of diseases and pains.

However, this does not release us from the obligation to begin a fight against antisemitism.

By all means and with all our strength, we should prevent people from being infected with antisemitism, because the Jew of our times is close to me and I feel guilty towards him.

I am one of those inhabitants of Russia, who know how the Jewish people are persecuted and how this is allowed.

And this is against a good people!

I know that a number of the most outstanding European thinkers consider Jews to be superior, culturally, to Russians.

I think that this is a fair assessment. If I may express my opinion, I have the impression that Jews are more European than Russians, due to the fact that, among them, there is a developed respect for work and for people.

I admire the spiritual perseverance of the Jewish people, their heroic idealism and their strong faith in the victory of good in the world and their faith in the possibility of happiness in our world.

Jews – the ferment of humanity – have always been a stimulus for the human spirit, giving the world new thoughts, awakening in man the pursuit for the better.

All people are equal.

The world belongs only to God. Man is the creator of his own fate and he can even argue with God.

All this is written in the Jewish Bible, one of the most beautiful books in the world. And the commandment to love one's neighbour is ancient Jewish law, like others such "You shall not kill" or "You shall not steal".

In 1885, the Society of German Jews published a book entitled "The Principles of Jewish Ethics". One of the main foundations of the Jewish religion is the command to love all humanity. Judaism prohibits all kinds of hatred, cursing and unfriendly treatment of anyone, regardless of nationality or religion.

This book was published at the time when pogroms against Jews were taking place in Russia.

I am a Russian person. And when I am left alone with my own strength and carefully analyse my advantages and disadvantages, it seems to me that I am Russian even to an exaggeration. And, as such, I am convinced that we Russians should learn much from Jews.

For example, in the seventh chapter of "The Principles of Jewish Ethics", we read,

"Judaism commands respect of all work, to participate in communal activities, to be physically and mentally active and to seek happiness by constantly creating and working.

"Therefore, Judaism demands that we take care of our physical power, our abilities so that we can perfect

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Naval treaty between England and the Soviets

World opinion is discussing the agreement between England and the Soviets at the Dardanelles Conference.

For Germany, this type of agreement is proof not only of the increasing importance of Soviet Russia, but also of its rapprochement with England, but also the end of the entire agreement is particularly unpleasant for Germany, as it believed that it had some sort of monopoly on a maritime agreement with England.

It is still unknown whether Berlin will draw any consequences from the new situation. There are many voices suggesting that Germany will consider the agreement between England and Moscow as a reason to change the maritime agreement concluded with England in June.

In this case, the Reich would demand a fleet parity increase with England, which is currently 35 to 100. London sees no reason, in the agreement with the Soviets for Berlin to make such claims.

It is worth noting that, on this occasion, there is a feeling in Berlin that the British-Soviet pact would not be accepted in Rome and that it would deepen the Italian-British rift.

The possibilities of British-Italian rapprochement have been on the horizon for some time now.

This is why far-reaching conclusions are being put forward in Berlin that Italy will not take part in the Locarno conference of powers, unless the German delegation appears there.

and use them rightly. As a result, all pointless, empty entertainment, that is not based on work, all idleness calculated on the support of others, is prohibited."

This is wonderful. This is wise. This is what the Russians lack. If we could develop the strengths and abilities that lie dormant in us.

If we could only use them appropriately in this disorderly, messy life, full of harsh chatter and home-grown philosophy that reveals more and more in stupid pride and childish conceit.

Somewhere, at the bottom of the sole of a Russian person – no matter whether he is a noble or a peasant – there lurks the evil spirit of passive anarchy, which has developed in us an indifferent attitude towards work, towards society, towards the nation, towards ourselves.

I believe that Jewish ethics could greatly help us to fight this evil spirit, if we wished to combat it.

In my earliest youth, I read, I do not remember where, a statement by the brilliant Hilel:

"If I cannot help myself, who will help me? And, even if I take care of myself, in the end, what am I?"*

The meaning of these words seemed very deep to me and I explained them thus: I must actively create better living conditions for myself. I must not this care onto someone else's shoulders.

But when I will only take care of myself – my life will be unnecessary and meaningless.

These words burned deep into my soul. I am fully convinced that these words of Hilel's have supported me along the winding and difficult path of my life.

It is difficult to say exactly what a person has to thank for staying on one's feet in periods of storms and deep inner doubt.

But, I emphasise, once again, that Hilel's wise words have brought me great comfort and help.

I believe that Jewish wisdom is more human than any other. And this is not because it bears the mark of thousands of years of culture.

It is also because of the power of the humanism that will fill it – because greatly values the person.

"The true Majesty of God is manifested in man", say the Jews. And this is something very dear to me.

I consider it to be the highest expression of wisdom.

I say thus because I am convinced that, until we learn to be enthusiastic about man as the most beautiful, the most wonderful phenomenon on our world, we will not be able to free ourselves from the lies and ugliness that dominates our lives.

I came into this world with this belief and I will leave this world with this belief.

And I will leave full of an unshakable faith that there will be a moment when the world will recognise that the highest love of holiness is MAN!