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Education

1. The main weight of the Bolshevik effort in the ideological field is directed toward the education of the masses on Communist lines. For the construction and maintenance of schools of various types, the Bolsheviks appropriate one-third of the Republic budget. In other circumstances, such a manifestation would be welcome to every true Lithuanian, who could only applaud government efforts in the educational sphere. At present, however, under Bolshevik conditions, such Bolshevik interest in the education of the Lithuanians is unwelcome. The Soviets endeavor, from the most elementary stages of learning, to inoculate the youth with Communist ideas and are guided by the old proverb of the Lithuanian people: "Bend the tree while it is young". With the help of the school system, they endeavor to educate the youth in a Communist spirit. Any teacher who dares to instruct in the old-fashioned way is soon warned, and if this is of no avail he is dismissed from his position. Darwinism, political education, Bolshevized histories of the USSR and Lithuania, etc., are the basis for education. The 38,000 members of the Communist Youth and 150,000 Pioneers, the propagandist's groups, and party schools for adults, are the fundamental organizational bases of the Communist educational system.

The Education network

2. At the present time there are in operation in Lithuania:
 - a. 12 schools of higher education with 12,000 students.
 - b. 191 secondary schools (11-class type).

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- c. 702 seven-year schools.
 - d. 2672 elementary schools (four-class type).
 - e. 202 evening schools for adults.
 - f. Various courses for illiterates and semi-illiterates.
 - g. Nine teachers' seminaries.
 - h. Maritime school in Klaipeda.
 - i. Secondary commercial institute in Kaunas.
 - j. Six FGA schools (schools for training in factory production).
 - k. Ten agricultural technical schools.
 - l. Four schools for railway personnel.
 - m. Schools for accoucheurs in Vilnius, Kaunas, and Panevezys.
3. At present there are about 500,000 people pursuing studies of various kinds. Education is free in all seven-year and special secondary schools. On entering the eighth class, which conforms to the fifth class of prewar schools, it is necessary to pay for education; in secondary schools of a general type the fee is 200 Rs per annum and in high schools 150 Rs per annum.
 4. Each student receiving four or five marks (sic) at examination receives a monthly stipend of 250 rubles; the marking system, as in most continental countries, is 0 - 5 marks. Students receiving five marks in subjects, the so-called Stalin Stipendists, receive 350 rubles monthly and do not pay either for education or for board in the students' hostels.
 5. All elementary, seven-year, and general educational secondary schools are the responsibility of the Ministry of Education. All special schools are the responsibility of the ministry concerned with the subjects taught, e.g., the agricultural technical schools are the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture. Schools of higher education, including universities, institutes, and academies, are the responsibility of the Ministry of Higher Education of the USSR.
 6. Teachers for the secondary schools are trained at the Pedagogic Institute in Vilnius and in the teachers' institutes of Klaipeda, Siauliai, and Kaunas. The number of students in these four institutes is about 4,600; all of these establishments have the status of schools of higher education. Elementary and seven-year school teachers are trained in nine teachers' seminaries. Physical training instructors are trained in the Physical Culture Institute in Kaunas and in the two-year trainers' schools in Kaunas. The Physical Culture Institute has the privileges of a school of higher learning.
 7. In the period between 1947 and 1951, 362 new elementary schools with facilities for 46,000 students were constructed, according to official statistics. The number of teachers in Lithuania now reaches approximately 18,000. Teachers' salaries vary from 600-1,200 rubles monthly.

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The teaching of illiterates and semi-illiterates is the responsibility of village teachers. In some cases this work is done voluntarily; but, generally speaking, it is obligatory. In this connection, the Kaunas region is best organized and, according to official statistics, 90 percent of the illiterates in this region are receiving instruction. The Soviets claim that, in all, 75,000 illiterates have been given schooling. The teaching program for illiterates and semi-illiterates is very simple: reading and writing in the Lithuanian language and basic arithmetic.

Academy of Sciences of the Lithuanian SSR

8. The structure of the Academy of Sciences is as follows:
 - a. First Branch: Physico-mathematical, natural, and applied sciences.

Institutes: Chemistry and chemical technology, geology and geography, biology, experimental medicine, agricultural sciences, land improvement, forestry.
 - b. Second Branch: Social sciences.

Institutes: Lithuanian language and literature, Lithuanian history, economics, law.
9. The President of the Academy of Sciences of the Lithuanian Soviet Republic is Professor Matulis, Vice-President is Ziugzda, (fnu), the Academic Secretary is Professor K. Beiliukas. Full members are Professors Lasas, Ivanauskas, Mykolaitis-Putinas, Balcikonis, Krisciunas, and others. Member correspondents are Professors Barsauskas, Dauksa, Korsakas, Dr. Valius, and others. In addition, 75 aspirants, persons preparing scientific works, are working in the various institutes. Of these, ten aspirants have been sent to Moscow and Leningrad.
10. Educational degrees are Candidate or Doctor of Science, which are valid throughout the territory of the USSR. Theses for Candidates of Science are defended in Vilnius or Kaunas and may be written in the Lithuanian or Russian languages. Doctorates are, however, obtainable only in Moscow or Leningrad, and the Russian language must be used.

Soviet Attempts to win over the Intelligentsia

11. One of the most effective methods for attracting and bribing the intellectuals is the award of Stalin Prizes. The following are Stalin prize laureates in Lithuania at present: Professor Dvarionas, the actor Rudzinskas, and the stage manager Grybauskas, who have each received Stalin prizes on two occasions. The authors Tilvytis and Venclova; sculptors Mikenas and Aleksandravicius; composers Talat-Kelesa, Svedas, and Vainunas; actors Mironaite, Jackeviciute, Zulonas, Siparis (father and son), Petruskeviciute, Stasiunas, Kavaliauskas, and others have once received Stalin prizes. Altogether there are about 30 of the Bolshevik laureates.
12. There is a so-called Society for the Dissemination of Political and Scientific Knowledge in Lithuania, which has about 6,500 members. This society organizes lectures and publishes brochures on various popular and scientific themes. The society has been created especially to advertise the Soviet mode of life and to spread Communist ideas among the masses.

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13. Two-year evening courses on Marxism and Leninism are organized in the main centers and are designed exclusively for the intelligentsia. At these courses lectures are read twice weekly. These usually last about four hours and are taken from the history of the Bolshevik Party, the history of the USSR, political economy, and Marxist philosophy. In addition, in the first year of the course a lecture in serial form is read, dealing with the international situation. All those who attend these courses are obliged to undergo examination on party history, political economy, and Marxist philosophy and receive a diploma signifying that they have completed the course on higher political education. All intellectuals are obliged to pass through this Communist political machine. In this way doctors, professors, civil servants, officers, etc., all learn the new gospel. The lectures are given in the Russian and Lithuanian languages. The Bolsheviks thus re-educate the intelligentsia, inoculate them in this artificial way with views on life foreign to them, and endeavor to effect bolshevization even in mental spheres. Their path is sometimes difficult, but they follow it unswervingly. For this reason the struggle on the ideological front has latterly become even more difficult. A section of the Lithuanian intellectuals is unable to withstand this pressure; and after wavering for a period, awaiting possible changes in the international situation, which never seem to come, they eventually allow themselves to be put into the Bolshevik harness.

Propaganda Media

The Press

14. In order to insure the maintenance of Communist propaganda pressure on the scale set by the Soviet rulers, a large press apparatus is essential. There are more newspapers and journals than the population needs, and almost every rayon has its own organ. The newspapers are all of one type and all pursue one objective; publicity for Communists. There are seven Republic newspapers, 18 journals, and 80 regional rayon and MTS newspapers; such is the Bolshevik press arsenal. These newspapers contain leading articles on various political themes, followed by write-ups of "Stakhanovites, the Production and Labor Elite", etc., accompanied by photographs.
15. Short reports on local events are to be found, some journalistic pin-pricks and squabbles between offices, factories, ministries and trusts when some correspondent or other attacks the work of a director, chairman, secretary, etc; this is usually considered to be the most interesting section of the newspaper. The review of international affairs can be depended upon to depict Truman and Churchill as cannibals and Hewlett-Johnson, Paul Robeson, and Max Reimann as defenders of peace and democracy. One will find saccharine little articles on "How Life Blossoms for the Collective Farmer", and fervent acclamations of the "Gigantic Achievements of Communism". There will also be slanderous and distorted reports from the Korean front in which American barbarism is featured. In each newspaper there is bound to be a description of some meeting or other, greetings telegrams to Stalin, and the inevitable spate of articles on the occasions of the October Revolution, the First of May, and other Communist feast days. Such is the invariable picture of a Communist newspaper.
16. In the book-publishing sphere, matters are a little better, because apart from the works of Soviet authors some of the foreign classics are also published, works of Shakespeare, Thackeray, Galsworthy,

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Dickens, London, Hugo, Maupassant, and others. Of the Lithuanian classics, the works of Zemaitė, Biliūnas, Duonelaitis, Maironis, and others are published. There is no publication or sale whatsoever of trashy and sexy literature. The books are quite well bound, and the average reader is able to obtain access to them through a wide network of libraries; there are over 700 libraries, not counting school, office, or factory libraries.

The Radio

17. The character of radio programs does not require elaboration, as it comprises Communist propaganda pure and simple. In Lithuania, apart from the radio transmitter at Vilnius, there are 23 radio stations and 6,570 public radio dissemination points.
18. Circles of radio amateurs are organized and they conduct various competitions and discussions among themselves.
19. The prices of radios are comparatively low. The very cheapest two-tube set costs 113 rubles, an average set of four tubes costs 180-250 rubles, a good set costs 450-700 rubles, and a very powerful set of from 9-12 tubes costs up to 1,500 rubles.
20. One can listen quite freely to all stations with the exception of those which are avowedly anti-Communist. These cannot be heard, owing to the activity of the Bolshevik jamming stations.

Theaters

21. Apart from the highly ideological Soviet films, some foreign films are also shown. Preference is naturally given to Hungarian, Polish, Rumanian, Czech, and Chinese films. Occasionally, however, Italian, French, English, and old American films such as Tarzan, Viva Villa, and The Three Musketeers or German films such as Ohm Kruger and Maria Stuart are shown. The Soviet film industry is unable to satisfy the broad mass of the population. Motion pictures are very popular, particularly when foreign films are being shown.
22. The theater, particularly drama, is completely dedicated to the service of propaganda. The number of theaters is quite large. At the present moment in Lithuania there are 12 theaters, of which one is for opera and ballet, two for Russian drama, and eight for Lithuanian drama. One of the more popular forms of entertainment is the folk ensemble. At folk ensemble performances the Lithuanians are able to see, even if only on the stage, something which is in accordance with the best Lithuanian traditions.

Sport

23. Sport has truly acquired a mass character; it is, however, essentially a medium of Bolshevik propaganda, particularly as far as the youth is concerned. Sport and the supplementary attractions offered to the youth, e.g., games against Soviet teams, are designed to win the youth away from reactionary parental influence. In 1951 a new sport organization Kolkhoznik (the Collective Farmer) was established with the exclusive object of organizing sport for village youth. Sports meetings

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are, if anything, more frequent than they were in prewar times. A number of branches of sport are being developed which were not previously practised in Lithuania: fencing, speed-skating, various types of gymnastics, water-polo, etc. The level of achievement has also risen considerably as compared with prewar times. For example, of 22 records in men's light athletics, 14 have been improved; of 11 ladies' records, 10 have been improved. There have been improvements in absolutely every case in which records were kept in weight-lifting, swimming, and cycling. Algiradas Socikas, a son of a metal worker of Kaunas, is the All-Union boxing champion. Kulakauskas, Legunavicius, Butautas, Petkevicius, Sabulis, and Stonkus are regular members of the USSR international basketball team. In 1951 the Kaunas men's basketball team "Zalgiris" won the title of Union Champions.

24. There are three stadiums in Vilnius: the State stadium, which has 20,000 seats, and two others each with 3,000 seats.

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