## Young Guard!

# THE COMMUNIST YOUTH LEAGUE, PETROGRAD 1917-1920

Isabel A. Tirado

Contributions to the Study of World History, Number 9



## Contents

Tab	les	iх
Ack	nowledgments	хi
	oduction	1
Part	I Youth in Revolution: 1917-1918	9
1.	The Socialist Youth Movement in Petrograd, 1917 The Politicization of Petrograd's Young Industrial	11
	Workers	12
	The Youth Movement in the Spring of 1917	18
	The Socialist League of Young Workers (SSRM)	23
	Organized Youth, the Workers' Movement, and the	
	Bolshevik Party	29
	Notes	35
2.	The Crisis of the Socialist League of Young Worker	'S
	and the Founding of the Komsomol	41
	The SSRM after the First City Conference	42
	Disengagement and Political Apathy	45
	Youth and the Red Guards	48
	The Crisis and the SSRM Leadership	49
	The SSRM in the Spring and Summer of 1918	57
	The Moscow and Petrograd Organizations before	
	the First Congress	64
	The First National Congress of the Communist Youth	
	League [Komsomol]	65
	Notes	74

#### Contents

Par	t II The Petrograd Komsomol at War: 1919-1920	81
3.	Organizational Tasks at the Height of the	
	Civil War	83
	The Civil War: Coercion and Consensus-Building	84
	The Komsomol and the Military Effort	89
	Revival and Dispersal	94
	The Search for Organizational Stability	100
	Students and Workers: A Debate on Social Composition	103
	Notes	112
4.	Youth Clubs and Schools for Young Workers:	
•	The Komsomol's Educational Policy	117
	Popular Education: Factory Schools and Youth Clubs	119
	Schools for Young Workers	120
	The Komsomol, Narkompros, and the Factory Schools	122
	The Development of Club Work	128
	Komsomol Club Life	132
	Notes	140
5.	Labor Advocacy: The League Debates Economic Work The Enforcement of Labor Protection Laws and	145
	Komsomol Economic Policy	146
	Labor Protection and the Komsomol: A Debate	151
	Economic Issues at the Second Komsomol Congress	156
	Economic Work After the Second Congress	160
	Notes	170
6.	The Komsomol Comes of Age: Komsomol-Party	
	Relations at the End of the Civil War	175
	Vanguard or Assistant: Redefining the Role of	
	Organized Youth	177
	Komsomol-Party Relations: The League as the Party's Reserves	178
	The Internal Crisis of 1920	
		185 189
	The Party Intervenes	105

### Contents

The Third Komsomol Congress and the Defeat of	400
the Dunaevshchina	193
Notes	199
Conclusion	203
Notes	207
Appendixes	209
Trud i svet's Charter and Manifesto	211
2. Charter and Program of the Socialist Youth League,	
Narva District (Spring 1917)	223
3. Program and Charter of the Socialist League	
of Young Workers (SSRM)	225
4. Program and Charter of the Communist Youth	
League, 1918	231
5. Program and Charter of the Communist Youth	
League, 1920	237
Notes	
MOTAR	253
Bibliography	
Index	