Education and Social Mobility in the Soviet Union 1921–1934

SHEILA FITZPATRICK

Associate Professor of History, Columbia University

STUDIES OF THE RUSSIAN INSTITUTE COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

CAMBRIDGE
LONDON · NEW YORK · MELBOURNE

Contents

	List of tables	viii
	Acknowledgements	ix
	PART I	
I	Education and Soviet society	
	Theoretical bases: Marx, Lenin and progressive education The formation of education policy: institutional conflicts	5 10
2	The new Soviet school	
	Progressive methods	19
	The problem of ideology	22
	Political consciousness in the school: Pioneers and Komsomols	2 5
	Teachers	29
	Reaction against progressive methods	34
3	The education system: problems of mobility and specialization	
	Alternative models: the Russian, Ukrainian and Komsomol	
	systems	42
	Access to higher education	48
	The 'bourgeois' secondary school and the working class	51
	The employment problem and the schools	54
	Schools for peasants	58
	Educational achievements and perspectives of NEP	61
4	Professors and Soviet power	
	Marxism and the social sciences	68
	The teaching of ideology	73
	Professorial organizations and attitudes	75
	Professorial salaries and privileges	79
	Accommodation with the Soviet regime	82

vi Contents

5	Recruitment to higher education	
	The selection process	89
	Communist students	92
	The 1924 student purge	97
	Communist and Komsomol students after the purge	102
	Recruitment to higher education after the purge	105
	PART II	
6	The 'great turning-point' of 1928-1929	
	Class vigilance and the Shakhty trial	113
	Leadership conflicts on education: Stalin's call for a proletarian	
	intelligentsia	116
	Training for industry: Narkompros against Vesenkha	123
	The political resolution of the education conflicts	127
7	Cultural Revolution and the schools	
	Reorganization of the educational administration	137
	The call for Cultural Revolution in educational theory and	
	methods	139
	The Komsomol campaign against the secondary school	144
	'Hare-brained scheming'	150
	The impact of Cultural Revolution on the pedagogical profession	
	profession	155
8	Mass education and mobility in the countryside	
	-'Class war' in rural education	159
	The impact of collectivization	16g
	Campaigns for adult literacy and universal primary education	168
	Education and peasant mobility	176
9	The making of a proletarian intelligentsia	
	Mobilization of the Thousands	184
	Dimensions of organized worker and Communist recruitment	
	to higher education	186
	Impact of the new policy on higher education	189
	Purging and expansion in higher education	193
	Training in the factory	198
	Training in the factory and upward mobility	202
	PART III	
0	The restoration of order: new policies in education, 1931-1934	
	The end of arganized worker requisitment to higher advection	0.1.0

	Contents	vii
	Rehabilitation of the bourgeois specialists	213
	Reorganization of higher technical schools	217
	The Central Committee and the schools	220
	Condemnation of the radical theorists	226
	The teaching of history	230
ΙI	The 'New Class': social mobility and education under Stalin	
	Educational opportunity in the Stalin period	235
	Upward mobility and the new Soviet elite	239
	The 'New Class' and the 'Great Retreat'	24 9
	Notes	² 55
	Bibliography	331
	Index	247