Return to mathematical circles - a fifth collection of mathematical stories and anecdotes

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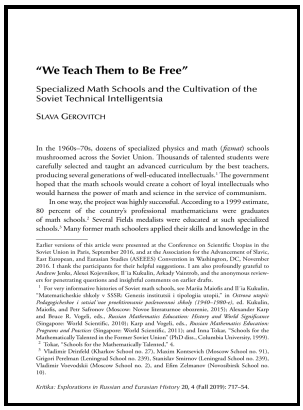

"We Teach Them to Be Free"

Specialized Math Schools and the Cultivation of the Soviet Technical Intelligentsia

SLAVA GEROVITCH

In the 1960s–70s, dozens of specialized physics and math (*fizmat*) schools mushroomed across the Soviet Union. Thousands of talented students were carefully selected and taught an advanced curriculum by the best teachers, producing several generations of well-educated intellectuals.[1] The government hoped that the math schools would create a cohort of loyal intellectuals who would harness the power of math and science in the service of communism.

In one way, the project was highly successful. According to a 1999 estimate, 80 percent of the country's professional mathematicians were graduates of math schools.[2] Several Fields medalists were educated at such specialized schools.[3] Many former math schoolers applied their skills and knowledge in the

Earlier versions of this article were presented at the Conference on Scientific Utopias in the Soviet Union in Paris, September 2016, and at the Association for the Advancement of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (AAEEES) Convention in Washington, DC, November 2016. I thank the participants for their helpful suggestions. I am also profoundly grateful to Andrew Jenks, Alexei Kojevnikov, Il'ia Kukulin, Arkady Vaintrob, and the anonymous reviewers for penetrating questions and insightful comments on earlier drafts.

[1] For very informative histories of Soviet math schools, see Marita Matoffs and Il'ia Kukulin, "Matematicheskie shkoly v SSSR: Genezis instituta i tipologiia utopii," in *Utrenie utopii: Pedagogicheskie i sotsial'nye proektirovanie poslevoennoi sovetskoi detstvy (1940–1980-e)*, ed. Kukulin, Matoffs, and Petr Saltsrver (Moscow: Novoe literaturnoe obozrenie, 2015); Alexander Karp and Bruce R. Vogeli, eds., *Russian Mathematics Education: History and World Significance* (Singapore: World Scientific, 2010); Karp and Vogeli, eds., *Russian Mathematics Education: Programs and Practices* (Singapore: World Scientific, 2011); and Irina Tolkai, "Schools for the Mathematically Talented in the Former Soviet Union" (PhD diss., Columbia University, 1999).

[2] Tolkai, "Schools for the Mathematically Talented," 6.

[3] Vladimir Drinfeld (Kharkov School no. 27), Maxim Kontsevich (Moscow School no. 91), Grigori Perelman (Leningrad School no. 239), Stanislav Smirnov (Leningrad School no. 239), Vladimir Voevodskii (Moscow School no. 2), and Efim Zelmanov (Novosibirsk School no. 16).

Kritika: Explorations in Russian and Eurasian History 20, 4 (Fall 2019): 737–54.

Description: -
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Mathematics -- MiscellaneaReturn to mathematical circles - a fifth collection of mathematical stories and anecdotes
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Prindle, Weber & Schmidt series in mathematicsReturn to mathematical circles - a fifth collection of mathematical stories and anecdotes
Notes: Includes index.
This edition was published in 1988

Tags: #Did #Albert #Einstein #Humiliate #an #Atheist #Professor?

Circle

Math modeling has given jugglers all kinds of new patterns to juggle, and we invite you to come see what mathematics can do. How many ways are there to put one white and one black king on a chessboard so that they do not attack each other? There are five types of envelopes and four types of stamps in a post office. Note also that the accumulation of heating-degree-days takes a linear equation and turns it into a proportion.

List of Important Mathematicians & Timeline

There is a growing emphasis in the workplace on group work and on the skills of communicating ideas to colleagues and clients.

Schoolhouse Diva Teaching Resources

Each cOlUlected component is, of course, a connected graph.

All Stories

And yet the work manages to strike some deep notes. Learn about mathematical proofs while exploring patterns of odd and even numbers and experimenting with real dominoes and chessboards. I recently had occasion to interview 75 students representing seven different high schools in the Northwest.

Standards for Mathematical Practice

For example, he has a magnetic instrument to check the thickness of the paint once it has been applied to the tower. Prove that the number 111 11 2n ones is composite. It is important to check that one of the transformed paths can really be a straight line so that we have an obvious answer; otherwise the solution can be much more difficult.

Related Books

- Politica estera italiana nellera Andreotti (1972-1992)
- Chromatography
- Deu peces
- Poetry of John Milton - exclusive of Paradise lost.
- Why war?-- psychoanalysis, politics, and the return to Melanie Klein