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Producing "good friends" of the Soviet Union

Founded in 1960 specifically to receive students from the newly independent countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America, the Moscow-based Peoples' Friendship University stated the goal of its activities was for their graduates to return home as "good friends" of the Soviet Union. The most important feature of the ideological work conducted among the students to reach this goal was presenting the achievements of Soviet society both as part of the curriculum and during the extra-curricular activities organized for the students. This article analyzes the role that different features of this representation of "Soviet reality" had for creating an overall image of the state socialist system. At the same time, those everyday experiences both in Moscow and outside it that question this ideal image are discussed. The analysis is based on Russian archival sources and their descriptions of forms of work and the everyday realities of the cooperation, as well as the problems encountered.

Marja Sorvari

Contemporary Translingual Russian Writers in Finland

The article deals with literary translingualism, and especially Russian-speaking writers who live outside their home country and write in a language other than their mother tongue. The article discusses the ideas that literary translingualism evokes about language, literature, and identity and deals with two Russian-speaking writers, Zinaida Lindén and Polina Kopylova, who live in Finland and write in Swedish and Russian, and in Finnish and Russian, respectively. The article discusses how the writers approach their multilingual creative process and how it is reflected in their literary texts and interviews.

Lotta Ruotsalainen

Memories of Political Repressions in Post-Soviet Russia during 2008–2018

The article discusses political repressions and the politics of memory in Post-Soviet Russia during the period 2008–2018. The aim is to explore how the Russian state has been putting the memory of political repressions to use. The primary data consists of presidential statements and news articles that address the history of political repressions. The memory of political repressions is actively employed to claim political legitimacy, a strong state and national unity. Further research is required to provide more detailed information about the state trying to achieve control over memories that are not dependent on the Russian state. Bearing in mind the recent discussion about the re-authorization of Russian society, this seems to be no accident.