

Soviet Pioneers

WORDS FOR THE DAY: MEANS OF PRODUCTION: the raw materials that people use to produce products (like land or tools or machinery or computers or buildings)

1. You might explain that under the czars the peasant class remained in poverty with no real way out.
2. The Pioneer system had actually borrowed from the czarist past, which had their own form of boy and girl scouts.
3. According to the listed source, childrearing eventually became more tolerant. In the early years of the Communist experiment, parents were treated almost like enemies and children were encouraged to turn in their parents if there was any suggestion of anti-communist activities or statements by them. For the most part, children were raised in their own communes and the teachings of the daycare centers took precedence over any teachings of the parents. By the middle 1940s, when that first generation of change had been fully implemented, Soviet official policy softened and parents were returned to positions of the primary caregivers and teachers of children.
4. You might explain to the students that the Great War was World War I. It only became known as World War I when there was a second world war.
5. Hopefully the students will understand the message in this story that extreme nationalism should not replace family bonds.
6. Most Americans think that the Soviet Union banned religious practice. Actually they only discouraged it by making public religion illegal. The people could still practice religion in their homes or their churches, but not on the streets. Atheism was also taught in schools.

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