

## THE ACTIVITY OF FEMALE SCIENTISTS IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION AND THE USSR IN 1945-1990

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**Abstract:** This article represents the period from 1945 to 1990 in the history of USSR, which was rated as Post- war period. It is the time when different spheres faced tangible progression. Women's participation in this process should be remained as well. The government encouraged female to take part in social life and gave them equal rights with men. By establishing Women's department such as Zhenotdel, authorities gave them right to participate actively in politician life as well. Several names of female scientists are presented in this article . They are different from other women with their courage. Including their social and scientific value, they had a family too. They were able to manage all this and achieve their goals.

**Key words:** post-war period, women's participation, equal rights, the Zhenotdel, Nobel prize, female cosmonaut, Vostok 6.

## ДЕЯТЕЛЬНОСТЬ ЖЕНЩИН-УЧЕНЫХ В ОБЛАСТИ ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ И СССР В 1945-1990 ГГ.

**Аннотация:** В статье представлен период с 1945 по 1990 годы в истории СССР, который был оценен как послевоенный период. Это время, когда в различных сферах наблюдается осязаемый прогресс. Участие женщин в этом процессе также должно быть сохранено. Правительство поощряло женщин принимать участие в общественной жизни и предоставляло им равные права с мужчинами. Создав женский отдел, такой как Женотдел, власти предоставили им право активно участвовать и в политической жизни. В статье представлены несколько имен женщин-ученых. Они отличаются от других женщин своей смелостью. Учитывая их социальную и научную ценность, у них тоже была семья. Они смогли всем этим управлять и добиться своих целей.

**Ключевые слова:** послевоенный период, участие женщин, равноправие, Женотдел, Нобелевская премия, женщина-космонавт, Восток-6.



## INTRODUCTION

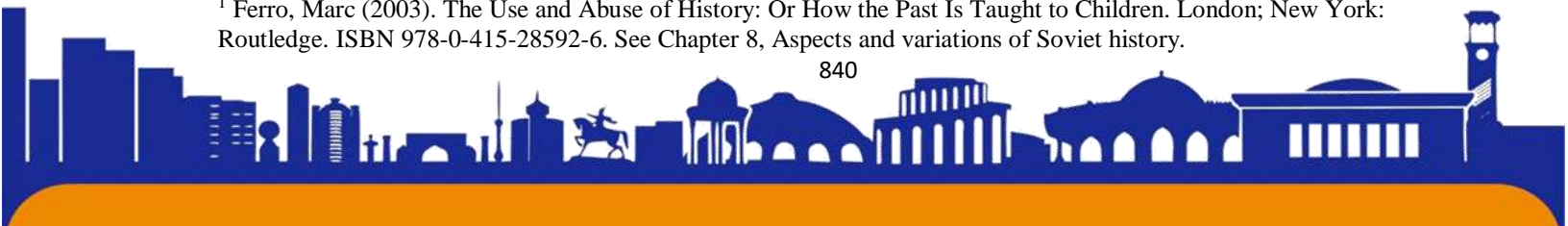
During the period of 1945-1990 in the Soviet Union, women played a significant role in the field of education. The Soviet government placed a strong emphasis on providing equal educational opportunities for both men and women, leading to a high level of female participation in the education sector. Women in the USSR were actively involved in various aspects of education, including teaching, administration, curriculum development, and research. They made up a large percentage of the teaching workforce in schools, universities, and other educational institutions. Many women also held leadership positions in the education system, such as school principals, department heads, and university deans<sup>1</sup>. One of the key initiatives that promoted women's participation in education was the establishment of the Zhenotdel (Women's Department) in the early years of the Soviet Union. The Zhenotdel focused on promoting women's rights, including access to education and employment opportunities. This helped pave the way for greater gender equality in the field of education. Additionally, the Soviet government implemented policies to support women in balancing their roles as educators and mothers. Maternity leave and childcare support were provided to female teachers and academics, allowing them to continue their careers while raising families. Overall, women in the USSR played a crucial role in shaping the education system and contributing to the intellectual and social development of Soviet society. Their active participation in the field of education helped to advance the goals of equality and social progress that were central to the Soviet ideology during this period.

## MAIN PART

Between 1945 and 1990, women scientists in the Soviet Union played a significant role in science and education. The USSR government paid special attention to ensuring equal opportunities for men and women in education, which led to a high level of women's participation in science and education. Women in the USSR were actively involved in various aspects of education, including teaching, administration, curriculum development, and research. They made up a significant part of the teaching staff of schools, universities and other educational institutions. Many women also held leadership positions in education, such as school principals, department heads, and

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<sup>1</sup> Ferro, Marc (2003). *The Use and Abuse of History: Or How the Past Is Taught to Children*. London; New York: Routledge. ISBN 978-0-415-28592-6. See Chapter 8, Aspects and variations of Soviet history.





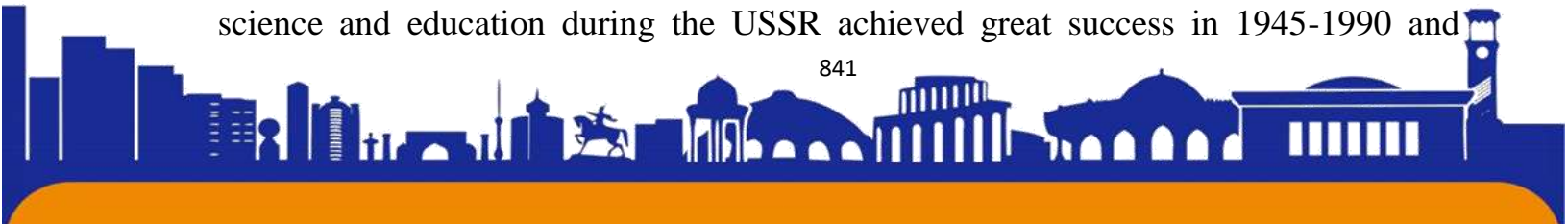
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university deans. One of the key initiatives that promoted women's participation in education was the creation of the Zhenotdel (Women's Office) in the early years of the Soviet Union. The Women's Department focused on promoting women's rights, including access to education and employment. This has contributed to greater achievement of gender equality in education. In addition, the Soviet government pursued a policy of supporting women in combining the roles of teachers and mothers. Women teachers and scientists were provided with maternity leave and support for child care, allowing them to continue their careers while raising a family.

In general, women in the USSR played a key role in shaping the educational system and contributed to the intellectual and social development of Soviet society. Their active participation in the field of education contributed to the goals of equality and social progress that were central to Soviet ideology at this time.

During the Soviet Union, great attention was paid to ensuring mutual equality and justice in the field of men's and women's rights. The Constitution of the Soviet Union was among the first countries to emphasize equal rights for men and women and to combat sexual discrimination, and was one of the most progressive in this regard. During the Soviet Union, women were highly successful in gaining their political, economic and social rights. Women's participation in education, work, political activities and other spheres has greatly improved. Women actively participated in teaching, academic staff, leaders and other areas. During the Soviet Union, various programs and projects were implemented to provide women with educational opportunities. At the same time, guides were provided to women to combine their family and professional activities. Guides were provided for women to be successful in family matters as well. In addition, during the Soviet Union, women actively participated in the political sphere. Needed opportunities were created for them to express themselves in parliament, authorities and other political organizations. Women were also appointed to high positions in government bodies. Ensuring the rights of every member of the society and ensuring sexual stability were considered the most important goals during the Soviet Union. Stable relations between men and women and the establishment of gender equality have been one of the common themes in the society of the Soviet Union.

A number of 1 women scientists who were an active contributor in the field of science and education during the USSR achieved great success in 1945-1990 and





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worked on a par with men worldwide. Their work has achieved unforgettable achievements in world history, and the scientific and educational works created by them are still being read today.

1. Valentina Tereshkova - Soviet cosmonaut in 1963, became the world's first female cosmonaut. Tereshkova made a mid-range rendezvous on the Vostok 6 mission and became the pilot who logged more than 70 hours. Her achievement showed that women can also be successful in space.

2. Lyudmila Zhivkova is the daughter of Bulgarian President Todor Zhivkov and was active in the field of education. She served as Bulgaria's Minister of Education and Arts from 1971 to 1981 and focused on the development of national education.

3. Marie Sklodowska-Curie - Polish-born French chemist and physicist. She achieved great success in searching for radioactive elements and studying their properties. She was the first to receive the Nobel Prizes in Chemistry and Physics in 1903 and 1911, respectively.

4. Ada Yonath - Israeli chemist and biologist. She achieved great success in the study of ribosome structure and was awarded the 2009 Nobel Prize in Chemistry.

These women were recognized for their scientific, technological and social achievements in the field of science and education during the USSR, and their scientific works are gaining attention worldwide. During the USSR, women in the field of science and education occupy an important place in society and much attention is paid to them. Their enthusiasm and achievements have been recognized worldwide, and their scientific and educational works are still being read today. The enthusiasm of women during the USSR was associated with their scientific, technological and social achievements. These women have achieved success in their field and earned a special place for themselves in the society. Their work has achieved unforgettable achievements in world history and there are several examples of their success. Women during the USSR, such as Valentina Tereshkova and Marie Sklodowska-Curie, were successful in the field of science and education. Tereshkova, a Soviet cosmonaut, was highlighted as the world's first female cosmonaut, while Sklodowska-Curie achieved great success in chemistry and physics. These individuals are the most highly regarded examples of women in the USSR, and their scientific and educational works are now gaining attention in the scientific community. Women created their enthusiasm in the field of science and education during the USSR, and great attention was paid to them.





The Soviet Union witnessed significant progress in science and education between 1945 and 1990, and women played a significant role in this process. Women scientists actively participated in various fields of science, from physics and chemistry to biology and mathematics. It is important to note that during the period of post-war reconstruction and industrialization of the USSR, women received the opportunity for education and professional growth on an equal basis with men. Many women became outstanding scientists, teachers and researchers whose achievements were significant for the development of science and technology.

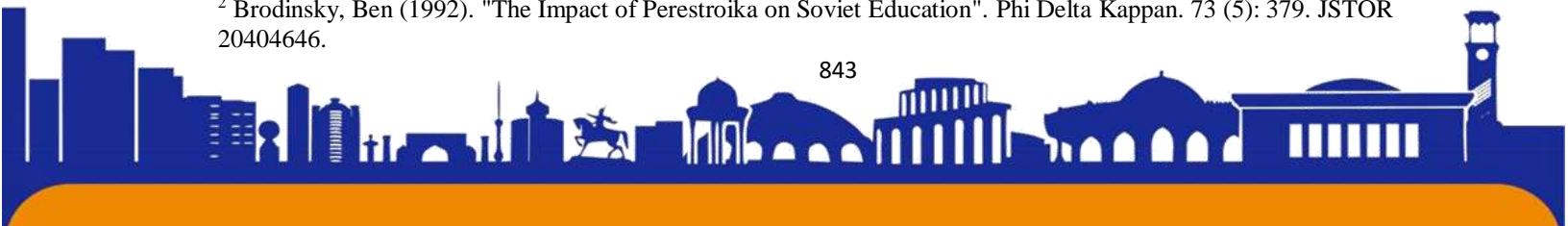
For example, Academician Nina Kurchatova, a physicist and mathematician, made a significant contribution to the development of nuclear physics. Her work and research were considered important for the Soviet scientific community. There are other examples of women scientists whose names have become famous due to their discoveries and achievements. Women scientists in the USSR not only engaged in scientific activities, but also actively taught and educated a new generation of scientists. Their contributions to the development of education and science have proven enduring and remain important and inspiring to many modern women scientists. Thus, the life and work of women scientists in the field of science and education in the USSR in the period from 1945 to 1990 were filled with many achievements that had a significant impact on the development of scientific thought and education in the country.

In the Soviet Union, education was guaranteed as a constitutional right for all people through public schools and universities. The education system that emerged after the establishment of the Soviet Union in 1922 gained international fame for its success in eradicating illiteracy and producing a highly educated population. Its advantages were full access and employment after education for all citizens. [citation needed] The Soviet Union recognized that the foundation of their system depended on an educated population and development in engineering, natural sciences, life sciences, and a wide range of fields. social studies along with basic education<sup>2</sup>.

The Soviet educational system was organized into three levels. The names of these levels were and are still used to rate the education standards of people or particular schools, despite differences in the exact terminology used by each profession or school. Military, militsiya, KGB and Party schools were also graded according to these

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<sup>2</sup> Brodinsky, Ben (1992). "The Impact of Perestroika on Soviet Education". *Phi Delta Kappan*. 73 (5): 379. JSTOR 20404646.





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levels. This distinguishes the Soviet system from the rest of the world, where educational levels of schools may differ, despite their similar names. Elementary schools were called the "beginning" level (Russian: начальное, *nachalnoye*), 4 and later 3 classes. Secondary schools were 7 and later 8 classes (required completing elementary school) and called "incomplete secondary education" (Russian: неполное среднее образование, *nepolnoye sredneye obrazovaniye*). This level was compulsory for all children (since 1958-1963) and optional for under-educated adults (who could study in so-called "evening schools"). Since 1981, the "complete secondary education" level (10 or, in some republics 11 years) was compulsory. 10 classes (11 classes in the Baltic republics) of an ordinary school was called "secondary education" (Russian: среднее образование—literally, "middle education". PTUs, *tekhnikums*, and some military facilities formed a system of so-called "secondary specialized education" (Russian: среднее специальное, *sredneye spetsialnoye*). PTU's were vocational schools and trained students in a wide variety of skills ranging from mechanic to hairdresser. Completion of a PTU after primary school did not provide a full secondary diploma or a route to such diploma. However, entering to a *tekhnikum* or other specialized secondary school could be started after either 8 or 10 classes of combined education in elementary and secondary schools. Graduation from this level was required for the positions of qualified workers, technicians and lower bureaucrat.

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1. See the articles on Trofim Lysenko and Lysenkoism.
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