The Harvard Project on the Soviet Social System Online

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Harvard Project on the Soviet Social System Online

After the conclusion of WWII researchers from Harvard University conducted extensive interviews with refugees from the USSR. The results of this research serve as a unique source for the study of Soviet society between 1917 and the mid-1940s. The interviews have been digitized by Harvard College Library and made freely accessible via the World Wide Web in an effort to enhance their value as both a research tool and instructional resource.
The Harvard Project on the Soviet Social System (HPSSS) is a collection of 764 transcripted interviews conducted with refugees from the USSR during the early years of the Cold War. A unique source, it boasts vast amounts of one-of-a-kind data on political, economic, social and cultural conditions. The HPSSS was compiled in English and organized according to a rigorous social science framework making it accessible to a broad range of students and scholars.
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The data is now digitized and freely accessible on the Web at

- http://nrs.harvard.edu/urn-3:hul.eresource:hpsoviet
The Harvard Project on the Soviet Social System Online provides access to digitized materials selected from the Harvard Project on the Soviet Social System (HPSSS). The HPSSS Online is a collection of 694 transcribed interviews conducted with refugees from the USSR during the early years of the Cold War. A unique source for the study of Soviet society between 1917 and the mid-1940s, the HPSSS includes vast amounts of one-of-a-kind data on political, economic, social and cultural conditions. The HPSSS's value is compounded by the fact that it was compiled in English and organized according to a rigorous social science framework, making it accessible to a broad range of students and scholars.

- About the HPSSS Collection
- Working with the HPSSS Online
  - Searching and Viewing
  - Manuals and Guides
  - Finding aids

Search the text of project materials

⚠️ Search results will open in a new browser window.

Select sort order for results:
- By relevance

Select material to search:
- All Interviews
- Schedule A Interviews only (Personal life histories)
- Schedule B Interviews only (Special topics)
- Manuals and Guides

Type keywords or phrase:

⚠️ Help With Search Terms

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Comments and questions are welcome.
As I said, I believed 50 percent, even though I knew that 50 percent was false. I knew furthermore that they did not tell everything. For example, in the League of Nations used to tell only what the Soviet representative Litvinov used to say, that he was for peace, and the rest of the capitalist countries was for war. Litvinov's speeches were spread all over the pages, but the speeches of the other representatives were never printed. We wanted to know what the others had to say, what proposals they made, but we never knew. We could only gather it from what the commentators wrote. (Can you just tell me what kind of news you believed?) I used to believe the foreign news about events that happened, for example that a Communist organization led a strike, and I used to believe the course of the war news, for example, that the Spanish loyalists were advancing, and the Falangists were retreating.

3. Yes.

(1) Very many. But they were all propaganda. For example, I saw "the circus" and "happy children".

20) (Did you like "happy children"?) Yes. The "circus" was also a good picture, but there were too many Communist ideas in it. They showed how Negroes were not liked in the United States, but when they come to France they
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Communication Section

As I said, I believed 90 percent, even though I knew that 50 percent was false. I knew furthermore that they did not tell everything. For example, in the [[illegible]] of nations used to tell only what the Soviet representative Litvinov used to say, that he was for peace, and the rest of the capitalist countries was war. Litvinov's speeches were spread all over the pages, but the speeches of the other representatives were never printed. We wanted to know what the others had to say, what proposals they made, but we never knew. We could only gather it from what the commentators wrote.

(Can you just tell me what kind of news you believed?)

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(Did you like "happy children"?)

Yes. The "circus" was also a good picture, but there were too many Communist ideas in it. They showed how Negroes were not liked in the United States, but when they came to Russia they were welcomed as great comrades and great friends. The picture "happy children" was very good for laughing. Then I saw the
Additional information can be found at:


And

The Harvard Project on the Soviet Social System Online
http://nrs.harvard.edu/urn-3:hul.eresource:hpsoviet