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The History of Education

The System of Public Education in Terek Oblast in the Period 1860–1917. Part 1

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Abstract

This work examines the system of public education in Terek Oblast in the period 1860–1917. The present part covers the period 1860–1900.

The key source used in putting this work together is the annual Reports on Educational Institutions in the Caucasus Educational District, which provide data on the region's schools run by the Ministry of Public Education. This source is characterized by incompleteness, which may be attributed to the fact that around that time the effort of collecting data on the system of public education in Terek Oblast in particular and across the Russian Empire as a whole was just starting out. Methodologically, wide use was made of the statistical method to identify a set of distinctive characteristics of the development of the system of public education in Terek Oblast in the period 1860–1900. To achieve the study's objectives, use was also made of general research methods such as analysis and synthesis, concretization, and summarization. Of special mention is the use in this study of the historical-situational method.

The authors' conclusion is that during the period 1860–1900, the development of the system of public education in Terek Oblast was based on the region's distinctive characteristics. At that time, the region witnessed the making of its systems of secondary, lower, and primary education. Due to the small size of the Russian population in the region at the time, it was not possible to create there quickly a large network of educational institutions, so the region's system of public

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education was predominantly serving the needs of its Orthodox Christian residents. Another distinctive characteristic of the system of public education in Terek Oblast in the period under review was the large number of schools under the Ecclesiastical Department and the large number of children attending them.

Keywords: public education, Terek Oblast, period 1860–1917, Caucasus Educational District, Russian Empire.

1. Introduction

Terek Oblast was established in 1860, the year following the capture of Imam Shamil and the end of the Caucasian War. At that time, the region incorporated the following eight okrugs: Nalchik, Kumyk, Ossetian, Ingush, Nagorny, Ichkerian, Chechen, and Argun. However, during the 1860s, a few more areas would become part of the region, more specifically the following three cities: Mozdok (1866), Kizlyar (1867), and Georgiyevsk (1868). Concurrently with the development of the system of civil administration in the region, its system of public education would also develop rapidly. The present part of the work reviews the development of the system of public education in Terek Oblast during the period from 1860, i.e. the year the oblast was established, to 1900.

2. Materials and methods

The key source used in putting this work together is the annual Reports on Educational Institutions in the Caucasus Educational District, which provide data on the region's schools run by the Ministry of Public Education ([Otchet, 1885](#); [Otchet, 1886](#); [Otchet, 1887](#); [Otchet, 1890](#); [Otchet, 1891](#); [Otchet, 1892](#); [Otchet, 1894](#); [Otchet, 1895](#); [Otchet, 1896](#); [Otchet, 1897](#); [Otchet, 1899](#); [Otchet, 1900](#); [Otchet, 1901](#)). This source is characterized by incompleteness, which may be attributed to the fact that around that time the effort of collecting data on the system of public education in Terek Oblast in particular and across the Russian Empire as a whole was just starting out.

Methodologically, wide use was made of the statistical method to identify a set of distinctive characteristics of the development of the system of public education in Terek Oblast in the period 1860–1900. To achieve the study's objectives, use was also made of general research methods such as analysis and synthesis, concretization, and summarization. Of special mention is the use in this study of the historical-situational method.

3. Discussion

Regarding the extent to which the issue has been investigated, it is to be noted right away that during the period under review Terek Oblast was part of the Caucasus Educational District. At different times, the Caucasus Educational District has been the subject of research more than once. For instance, an attempt to investigate the history of public education in the Caucasus was made in 2016 by N.A. Shevchenko ([Shevchenko et al., 2016](#)). T.A. Magsumov has explored a similar subject, with a focus on the 1850s ([Magsumov et al., 2018](#)). O.V. Natolochnaya has investigated the operation of mountain schools in the Caucasus and the system of public education in Stavropol Governorate ([Natolochnaya et al., 2018](#); [Natolochnaya et al., 2018a](#)). The above-mentioned T.A. Magsumov has explored the system of public education in Kars Oblast ([Magsumov et al., 2020](#); [Magsumov et al., 2020a](#)), and V.S. Molchanova has researched the system of public education in Kuban Oblast ([Molchanova et al., 2019](#); [Molchanova et al., 2019a](#); [Molchanova et al., 2020](#)). A.A. Cherkasov has investigated similar processes in Black Sea Governorate ([Cherkasov et al., 2020](#)), and A.A. Mamadaliev – in Tiflis Governorate ([Magsumov et al., 2020](#); [Magsumov et al., 2020a](#)). Thus, in recent years researchers have expressed keen interest in investigating the development of the system of public education in the Caucasus, with the filling in of gaps in the study of this process helping obtain an integrated picture of public education in the pre-revolutionary Caucasus.

4. Results

As in other regions of the Russian Empire, the system of public education in Terek Oblast was divided into the following three stages: secondary, lower, and primary.

Secondary education

Secondary education in Terek Oblast was represented by male and female gymnasia and progymnasia, as well as real schools for boys.

The first secondary educational institution, the Vladikavkaz Female Progymnasium, was opened in 1861, i.e. right after the establishment of Terek Oblast (Otchet, 1890: №106). On September 1, 1866, the city of Pyatigorsk became home to the Pyatigorsk Male Progymnasium (Otchet, 1891: №1). On January 1, 1874, Vladikavkaz became home to the first male secondary educational institution – the Vladikavkaz Real School (Otchet, 1885: applications). That same year, on August 24, the Vladikavkaz Female Progymnasium was transformed into a female gymnasium (Otchet, 1890: №106). On June 1, 1880, Terek Oblast became home to the Vladikavkaz Male Progymnasium (Otchet, 1885: applications). As early as July 1, 1885, the Vladikavkaz Male Progymnasium was transformed into a gymnasium (Otchet, 1886: applications).

On September 1, 1895, Pyatigorsk became home to a female progymnasium too (Otchet, 1896: 162). On January 25, 1898, Vladikavkaz became home to a female progymnasium (Otchet, 1899: 166). In 1899, the Pyatigorsk Female Progymnasium was transformed into a female gymnasium (Otchet, 1901: 166).

Table 1 provides the data on the region’s secondary educational institutions under the Ministry of Public Education and the number of students in them.

Table 1. Number of secondary educational institutions under the Ministry of Public Education and number of students in Terek Oblast in the period 1884–1900 (Otchet, 1885: applications; Otchet, 1886: applications; Otchet, 1887: 4, applications, 168; Otchet, 1890: № 1, 28, 51, 106, 127; Otchet, 1891: № 1, 28, 51, 77, 106, 127; Otchet, 1892: № 1, 25, 51, 77; 106, 127; Otchet, 1894: № 1, 25, 51, 77, 106, 127; Otchet, 1895: № 1, 25, 51, 77, 106, 127; Otchet, 1896: 2, 50, 105, 131, 162, 204; Otchet, 1897: 6, 54, 109, 135, 166, 208; Otchet, 1899: 6, 54, 109, 135, 208; Otchet, 1900: 6, 54, 109, 135, 166, 208; Otchet, 1901: 6, 54, 109, 135, 166, 208)

Year	Gymnasia		Progymnasia		Real schools	Total	Number of students		
	Male	Female	Male	Female			Boys	Girls	Total
1884	-	1	2	-	1	4	709	454	1,163
1885	1	1	1	-	1	4	760	432	1,192
1886	1	1	1	-	1	4	781	468	1,249
1889	1	1	1	-	1	4	737	425	1,162
1890	1	1	1	-	1	4	791	431	1,222
1891	1	1	1	-	1	4	814	472	1,286
1892	1	1	1	-	1	4	861	475	1,336
1894	1	1	1	-	1	4	789	489	1,278
1895	1	1	1	1	1	5	970	562	1,532
1896	1	1	1	1	1	5	1,058	608	1,666
1898	1	1	1	2	1	6	1,150	967	2,117
1899	1	1	1	2	1	6	1,174	1,065	2,239
1900	1	2	1	1	1	6	1,296	1,114	2,410

As evidenced in Table 1, in the period under review the region witnessed relatively weak dynamics in terms of the establishment of secondary educational institutions in it. Over the 16-year period, the number of educational institutions increased only by two, i.e. 50% of the total number. That being said, during the period under review the number of students increased more than two times, which would provide a sufficient foundation for the development of secondary education in Terek Oblast in the early 20th century. Another area worthy of consideration is the region’s student gender balance: if in 1884 girls accounted for about one-third of the total student body, by 1900 the figure had rapidly approached 50 %.

Lower education

Lower education in Terek Oblast was represented by urban, tradesman’s specialized, mountain, and tradesman’s schools.

The region’s first mountain school, the Nalchik Mountain School, was established between 1851 and 1861. On November 28, 1863, the region became home to the Grozny Mountain School, and in 1870 – to the Nazran Mountain School (Otchet, 1885: applications). In 1868, it became home to the Vladikavkaz Tradesman’s Specialized School (Otchet, 1885: applications).

The first urban school, the Vladikavkaz Urban School, was created in 1874 concurrently with the real school and the female gymnasium. A year later, on July 1, 1875, the region became home to an urban school in the city of Mozdok, two years later – in the city of Kizlyar, and on August 1, 1880 – in the city of Georgiyevsk (Otchet, 1885: applications; Otchet, 1886: applications).

On July 1, 1889, the region became home to an urban school in Pyatigorsk as well (Otchet, 1890: № 185), with the total number of urban schools in Terek Oblast reaching five. In 1896, the region became home to the Grozny Urban School (Otchet, 1897: 294). On July 1, 1897, they established at the Pyatigorsk Urban School a lower tradesman’s school (Otchet, 1899: 406).

Table 2 provides the statistical data on lower educational institutions in Terek Oblast in the period 1884–1900.

Table 2. Number of lower educational institutions and number of students in them in Terek Oblast in the period 1884–1900 (Otchet, 1885: applications; Otchet, 1886: applications; Otchet, 1887: 198, 218, 232, 254; Otchet, 1890: № 185, 203, 241, 256; Otchet, 1891: № 184, 199, 240, 258; Otchet, 1892: № 184, 199, 240, 258; Otchet, 1893: № 184, 199, 240, 258; Otchet, 1894: № 184, 199, 240, 258; Otchet, 1895: № 184, 199, 240, 258; Otchet, 1896: 290, 316, 392; Otchet, 1897: 294, 320, 326, 426, 456; Otchet, 1899: 294, 322, 406, 436; Otchet, 1900: 294, 348, 456, 486; Otchet, 1901: 294, 348, 456, 486)

Year	Urban schools	Tradesman’s specialized schools	Mountain schools	Tradesman’s schools	Total	Number of students		
						Boys	Girls	Total
1884	4	1	3	-	8	888	-	888
1885	4	1	3	-	8	882	-	882
1886	4	1	3	-	8	817	-	817
1889	5	1	3	-	9	989	-	989
1890	5	1	3	-	9	1,005	-	1,005
1891	5	1	3	-	9	1,011	-	1,011
1892	5	1	3	-	9	1,010	-	1,010
1894	5	1	3	-	9	1,155	-	1,155
1895	5	1	3	-	9	1,216	-	1,216
1896	6	1	3	-	10	1,373	-	1,373
1898	6	1	3	1	11	1,780	-	1,780
1899	6	1	3	1	11	1,963	-	1,963
1900	6	1	3	1	11	2,006	-	2,006

As evidenced in Table 2, in the period under review the number of lower educational institutions in Terek Oblast increased by three. A considerable contribution was made to the development of the region’s urban schools, which accounted for 50%, with the region becoming home to its first lower tradesman’s school too. The demand for lower education in Terek Oblast at the time is best illustrated by the number of students in its lower educational institutions. Over the 16-year period, the number of students in those institutions increased more than two times – from 888 to 2,006 students. With that said, by 1900 some of the urban schools in the region were full to

capacity. For instance, the Vladikavkaz Urban School had an enrollment of 385 students, which was much above the average across the Caucasus* (Otchet, 1901: 360).

Primary education

The exact date of the establishment of the first primary school in Terek Oblast is unknown. However, there is information indicating that by 1841 the region had in operation two primary schools (Otchet, 1892: № 320). Over the next 25 years, the region became home to another 21 primary schools. In 1867, there began a sharp decline in the number of primary schools in the region. Specifically, from 1867 to 1871 the number of primary schools increased by 36, and from 1872 to 1876 – by another 27. Over the following years, the growth was quite slow (Otchet, 1892: № 320). By 1884, primary education in Terek Oblast was run by the following two entities: the Ministry of Public Education and the Ecclesiastical Department. Table 3 provides the statistical data on the number of primary educational institutions under the Ministry of Public Education and the number of students in them in the period 1884–1900.

Table 3. Number of primary schools under the Ministry of Public Education and number of students in them in Terek Oblast in the period 1872–1900 (Otchet, 1885: applications; Otchet, 1886: applications; Otchet, 1887: 272, 296; Otchet, 1890: № 296, 311; Otchet, 1891: № 315, 330; Otchet, 1892: № 317, 332; Otchet, 1894: № 318, 333; Otchet, 1895: № 318, 333; Otchet, 1896: 476, 506; Otchet, 1897: 506, 536; Otchet, 1899: 486, 516; Otchet, 1900: 536, 566; Otchet, 1901: 536)

Year	Number of schools	Number of students		
		Boys	Girls	Total
1884	98	4,388	1,324	5,712
1885	99	4,431	1,463	5,894
1886	102	3,861	1,114	4,975
1889	106	4,777	1,893	6,670
1890	107	4,978	1,963	6,946
1891	107	4,783	1,818	6,600
1892	107	4,950	1,841	6,791
1894	112	5,700	2,064	7,764
1895	119	6,071	2,448	8,519
1896	122	6,596	2,503	9,099
1898	134	7,439	2,401	9,840
1899	141	7,935	2,484	10,419
1900	159	8,429	2,520	10,949

As evidenced in Table 3, in the period under review the number of primary educational institutions in the region rose 60 %, from 98 to 159. That being said, the number of students in its primary schools rose less than two times. This must have been due to the Caucasian War and a lack of cooperation between the region's ethnic minorities and its authorities. It is to be noted that, according to the 1897 nationwide census, Russians accounted for 29 % of the region's population, followed by Chechens – 23.9 %, Ossetians – 10.3 %, Kabardians – 9 %, and the Ingush – 5.1 %, with the rest of the ethnicities in the region, including Ukrainians, Nogais, and Kumyks, accounting for less than 5 % of its population.

An important role in the development of primary education in the region was played by the Holy Synod. Just to compare, in 1896 the region's 122 schools under the Ministry of Public Education had a combined enrollment of 9,099 students, while its 113 parochial schools had a combined enrollment of 5,773 students (Otchet, 1897: № 341). With that said, it is to be noted that Terek Oblast's parochial schools tended to be established in lowly populated areas.

The region had another type of primary educational institutions in operation too. For instance, there were Armenian Gregorian schools, whose number kept changing. Specifically,

* The average number of students per urban school across the Caucasus was 290 (calculated by the authors).

between 1889 and 1890 there were nine Armenian Gregorian schools in the region (Otchet, 1890: № 318; Otchet, 1891: № 338), in 1892 – 10 (Otchet, 1892: № 340), in 1894 – just four (Otchet, 1894: № 340), in 1895 – five (Otchet, 1896: 526), and in 1896 – four again (Otchet, 1897: 552). This variability must have been associated with changes in the demand for attending this particular kind of educational institutions. In addition, in the year 1895 alone Terek Oblast became home to as many as 154 Muslim schools (Otchet, 1896: 526), all of which continued operation in 1896 too (Otchet, 1897: 556). However, as early as 1897 schools of this kind ceased to be mentioned in the reports on the Caucasus Educational District, the reason being that they were ecclesiastical.

Table 4 provides the summarized statistical data regarding public education in Terek Oblast in the period 1884–1900.

Table 4. Number of educational institutions in Terek Oblast in the period 1884–1900 (Obzor, 1884: 48; Otchet, 1890: № 288; Otchet, 1891: № 307; Otchet, 1892: № 309, 340; Otchet, 1894: № 310, 341; Otchet, 1895: № 310, 341; Otchet, 1896: 458, 524; Otchet, 1897: 488, 554; Otchet, 1899: 468; Otchet, 1900: 518; Otchet, 1901: 518)

Year	Secondary	Schools					Total
		Lower	Primary			Run by other departments	
			Run by the Ministry of Public Education	Private	Parochial		
1884	4	8	98	7	N/A*	-	117 [†]
1889	4	8	106	6 [‡]	35	-	159
1890	4	8	107	8 [§]	38	-	165
1891	4	9	107	5	79	-	204
1892	4	9	107	5	86 ^{**}	-	211
1894	4	9	112	6	92 ^{††}	-	223
1895	5	9	119	5	94	-	232
1896	5	10	122	5	113 ^{‡‡}	1	256
1898	6	11	134	5	N/A	N/A	156 ^{§§}
1899	6	11	141	4	N/A	N/A	162 ^{***}
1900	6	11	159	6	N/A	N/A	182 ^{†††}

The incompleteness of the data provided in Table 4 may be attributed to the fact that these statistics were gathered by different agencies, each of which used their discretion as to which metrics to use. Nevertheless, the statistics for the period 1889–1896 indicate that in the late 19th century there was a steady increase in the number of parochial schools in the region. Therefore, even if it is assumed that in 1900 the number of schools in the region remained at the

* Data not available

† Data not available on the region’s schools under the Ecclesiastical Department

‡ The region’s private educational institutions had a combined enrollment of 133 (125 boys and eight girls).

§ The region’s private educational institutions had a combined enrollment of 161 (123 boys and 38 girls).

** The region’s 86 parochial schools had a combined enrollment of 3,272 boys and 690 girls.

†† The region’s 95 parochial schools had a combined enrollment of 3,230 boys and 1,025 girls.

‡‡ The region’s 113 parochial schools had a combined enrollment of 4,043 boys and 1,730 girls.

§§ Data not available on the region’s schools under the Ecclesiastical Department and schools under the rest of the departments

*** Data not available on the region’s schools under the Ecclesiastical Department and schools under the rest of the departments

††† Data not available on the regions’ schools under the Ecclesiastical Department and schools under the rest of the departments

level registered in 1896 and in 1884 there were as many schools there as in 1889, it appears that in 1884 Terek Oblast had in operation a total of 152 schools, and in 1900 – 298 schools now, i.e. there was a 200% increase in the number of educational institutions in the region. With that said, the largest increase was posted by the region's parochial schools – a rise of over three times in the period 1889–1896.

5. Conclusion

During the period 1860–1900, the development of the system of public education in Terek Oblast was based on the region's distinctive characteristics. At that time, the region witnessed the making of its systems of secondary, lower, and primary education. Due to the small size of the Russian population in the region at the time, it was not possible to create there quickly a large network of educational institutions, so the region's system of public education was predominantly serving the needs of its Orthodox Christian residents. Another distinctive characteristic of the system of public education in Terek Oblast was the large number of schools under the Ecclesiastical Department and the large number of children attending them in the region.

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