Under Lenin’s watchful eye: Growing up in the former Soviet Union

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Abstract

Using autoethnography as a primary methodology, I draw on my experience growing up in the former Soviet Union in the late 1970s and 1980s to illuminate the everyday life in the authoritarian regime and its surveillance apparatus. At that point, the corruption of the regime was evident to most citizens as black markets flourished; illegal monetary exchanges were widespread, and bribery became a legitimate and widespread institution. However, as the economical sector was slipping out of Soviet control, the public institutions such as media and education were still in business of propagating Soviet ideology. That ideology permeated every aspect of culture, however, it was not enforced through a top-down surveillance, but rather through an internalized surveillance based in belief and faith in authoritarian institutions of power. As a result, it produced individuals torn between faith in the ideals and the reality of the everyday life. In the essay I plan to examine my own experiences through theoretical lens of self-surveillance to make an argument about the production of subjectivity in authoritarian regimes.

References


"Under Lenin's watchful eye: Growing up in the former Soviet Union." Surveillance & Society 15(3/4), 2017. "Disrupt or Die: Mobile Health and Disruptive Innovation as Body Politics," Television & New Media, 18(6), 2017. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 protects people from discrimination based on sex in education programs or activities which receive Federal financial assistance. Title IX states: "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance..." 20 U.S.C. § 1681 - To Learn More, visit Title IX and Sexual Misconduct. World Russia Victory Day Soviet Union Moscow. Updated | There are few days in the Russian calendar that can lay claim over a single word as May 9 can over "victory." The Soviet Red Army's counter-offensive against Nazi Germany—which verged on catastrophic in the war's early days—ended with a triumphant march into Berlin in 1945. Foreign troops often take part as well, as former Soviet allies annually send honor guards marching under the watchful eye of Putin and their respective leaders, though soldiers from Britain, France and the U.S. have also crossed the Red Square cobbles alongside Russia's finest in 2010. • Under Lenin’s Watchful Eye: Growing up in the former Soviet Union more. by Marina Levina. Using autoethnography as a primary methodology, I draw on my experience growing up in the former Soviet Union in the late 1970s and 1980s to illuminate the everyday life in the authoritarian regime and its surveillance apparatus. At that point, the corrupt