

ABSTRACTS

GERGELY, FERENC: *Disciplining the Teachers (1919-1926)*

Keywords: *Hungarian Soviet Republic of 1919, governance of Horthy, history of education, teachers, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Public Education*

The study analyzes the situation of Hungarian teachers between 1918 and 1926, making use of the rich secondary sources and press of the period and of this topic, while also pointing out the lack of national exploration of the sources in archives. In the search for those responsible after the fall of the Republic of Councils and the loss of territories of the country (when national collaboration would have been of pivotal importance), the role of intellectuals, especially that of teachers, was given a highlighted focus. School leaders nominated during the 133 days were dismissed, and teachers had to give an account of what had they done and what had they taught during the two revolutions. Orders from above designated the ideological content of education, which by order was Christian and nationalist. During the white terror and the procedures of exculpation,

lawlessness and cruelty were also present, against which the Hungarian Social Democratic Party, the unions and the left-wing press protested. The purges were lead by the Disciplinary Standing Committee, set up in the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Public Education. A special focus was given to the role of Jewish teachers, who supported the goals of the revolutions and actively participated in them in an outstanding number. The overall poverty and unemployment aggravated the situation of teachers. It was necessary to make education cheaper, to promote its national character and to transform it so that it can better serve the transformation of society from the feudal system to the civic system. Yet, it was also a necessity to adapt it to the new size of the country, which also meant dismissal of teachers, and was also done for political reasons.