

Nomads and School: The Experience of Russia's North

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Nomadism has always been a problem for authorities wishing to have full control of a territory. School has been one part of the controversial treatment of nomads: how is it possible to provide education to children, when they are permanently moving around? Authorities have reacted to this situation in different ways. This presentation focuses on three periods in Russian history: the tsarist period, with the endeavours of the missionaries (with a focus on the Obdorsk mission and its head, Irinarh Shemanovski); the Soviet period and its ambitious projects of equality, standardisation and transformation of mankind and the post-Soviet period, in which costs have become much more central than ideology for the State. For Arctic nomads, these different approaches and policies have had a variable impact the presentation focuses on.