

## “SCHOOL INSTILLS THE SPIRIT OF SOCIALISM”

Objectives and Limitations of the “New School” in Stalinist Czechoslovakia

*Jan Randák*

This article deals with education at schools in communist Czechoslovakia in the period 1948-1956, focusing on history instruction. According to contemporary thinking, schools should become a place where the new, socialist person was formed. School was thus regarded as an institution where politically relevant values and norms were imparted along with concrete knowledge. State authorities were interested not only in the mind of a pupil, but also in his body, as is witnessed by curricula and internal documents laying great store by physical fitness and premilitary training. History instruction aimed at shaping historical awareness of the members of the younger generation, their world view, their political identity, and at enhancing patriotism. In all these respects, the medieval Hussite movement was a preferred topic which was presented as the moment when a national revolutionary tradition was born which allegedly continued from the 15<sup>th</sup> century through the communist takeover of 1948.