

Interviews on ethics, conscience and dissent in the USSR (Беседы об этике, совести и инакомыслии в СССР): Summary of contents and biographical details

These interviews were conducted by Philip Boobbyer between 1994 and 2003 for a research project on the role of 'conscience' in shaping opinion and undermining communism in the late Soviet era. They explored the ethical thinking and experiences of dissidents, intellectuals and Communist Party reformers, and the ways in which moral and spiritual motivations were present in their ideas and activities. They took place face-to-face, in Russian, and were conducted in a semi-structured way. Interviewees were asked questions about how their ideas about morality were formed and how they experienced the influence of conscience in their lives, as well as about the impact on them of moments of crisis or transformation. The interviews were initially used as the basis for Boobbyer's article, 'Truth-telling, conscience and dissent in late Soviet Russia: Evidence from oral histories', *European History Quarterly* 30 (2000), 553-585. Material from the interviews was then used to inform his book *Conscience, Dissent and Reform in Soviet Russia* (London: Routledge, 2005), which was published in Russian as *Sovest', dissidentstvo i reformy v Sovetskoj Rossii* (Moscow: ROSSPEN, 2010).

The interviews can be grouped in three sections:

- 1) Dissidents, activists, prisoners (total 16)
- 2) Intellectuals, cultural figures (total 12)
- 3) Reformers, advisors (total 6)

1) Dissidents, activists, prisoners (16)

Ludmila Alexeyeva (1927-2018)

Prominent human rights activist. Founder member of the Moscow Helsinki Group in 1976, and an active human rights campaigner after the collapse of the USSR.

Interview in Moscow, April 2003. Two sections, 94 minutes, transcript in Russian.

Larisa Bogoraz (1926-2004)

Born in Kharkov. Vocal human rights activist. Involved in the demonstration against the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia in August 1968.

Interview in Moscow, April 1996. Two sections, 48 minutes, transcript in Russian and English.

Vladimir Bukovsky (1942-2019)

One of the founders of the Human Rights Movement in the USSR. Involved in the campaign against the abuse of psychiatry. Exiled to the West in 1976.

Interview in Cambridge, June 1995. Three sections, 111 minutes, transcript in Russian.

Alexander Ginzburg (1936-2002)

Co-founder in 1959 of first Soviet samizdat literary journal, *Phoenix*. Three times arrested and sent to prison or camp. Founder member of the Moscow Helsinki Group.

Interview in Paris, March 1997. Two sections, 83 minutes, transcript in Russian.

Natalya Gorbanevskaya (1936-2013)

Responsible for launching *The Chronicle of Current Events* in 1968. Founder member in 1969 of the Initiative Group for the Defence of Human Rights in the USSR.

Interview in Paris, March 1997. Two sections, 63 minutes, transcript in Russian and English.

Vyacheslav Igrunov (1948-)

Grew up in Odessa. Founded an independent library. Arrested and imprisoned 1975-77.

Helped formulate the ideas of the Memorial Society. Leading figure in the Yabloko party.

Interview in Copenhagen, May 1995. Two sections, 79 minutes, summary in English.

Veniamin Joffe (1938-2002)

Dissident based in Leningrad. Imprisoned in a labour camp in Mordovia, 1965-68. Later a leading figure in the St Petersburg Memorial Society.

Interview in St Petersburg, April 1996. Two sections, 55 minutes, summary in English.

Tatyana Khodorovich (1921-2015)

Founder member of the Initiative Group for the Defence of Human Rights in the USSR.

Helped run the Russian Social Fund for Persecuted People and their Families started by Solzhenitsyn.

Interview in Paris, March 1997. Two sections, 92 minutes, transcript in Russian and English.

Sergei Kovalev (1930-2021)

Biophysicist. Founder member of the Initiative Group for the Defence of Human Rights in the USSR. Ombudsman for Human Rights under Yeltsin.

Interview in Moscow, April 1998. One section, 37 minutes, transcript in Russian.

Malva Landa (1918-2019)

Born in Odessa and trained as a geologist. Founder member of the Moscow Helsinki Group. Spent the years 1980-84 in exile in Kazakhstan.

Interview in Moscow, April 1998. Two sections, 94 minutes, summary in Russian.

Andrei Mironov (1954-2014)

Human rights campaigner and interpreter, active in distributing samizdat. Imprisoned under Gorbachev. Killed by shrapnel in Ukraine in 2014.

Interview in Caux-sur-Montreux, July 1995. Two sections, 63 minutes, transcript in Russian.

Valerya Novodvorskaya (1950-2014)

Active dissident first arrested in 1969 and then confined in a psychiatric hospital. Founder of the party 'Democratic Union' in 1988.

Interview in Moscow, April 2003. Two sections, 56 minutes, summary in English.

Leonid Plyushch (1938-2015)

Ukrainian mathematician. Founder member of the Initiative Group for the Defence of Human Rights in the USSR. Arrested in 1972 and confined in a psychiatric hospital. Released to the West in 1976.

Interview in Paris, March 1997. Two sections, 88 minutes, transcript in Russian and English.

Grigory Pomerants (1918-2013)

Philosopher and essayist influential in samizdat circles. Gave a famous speech about Stalinism at the institute of Philosophy in 1965.

Interview in Moscow, April 1998. One section, 44 minutes, transcript in Russian.

Vladimir Poresh (1949-2023)

Russian Orthodox believer and dissident. Member of the Christian Seminar. Convicted in 1980 of anti-Soviet agitation and imprisoned until 1986.

Interview in St Petersburg, April 1996. Two sections, 60 minutes, summary in English.

Tatyana Velikanova (1932-2002)

Founder member of the Initiative Group for the Defence of Human Rights in the USSR. Centrally involved in organising and editing *The Chronicle of Current Events*.

Interview in Moscow, January 1998. Two sections, 88 minutes, transcript in Russian and English.

2) Intellectuals, cultural figures (12)**German Andreev (Fein) (1929-)**

Influential teacher and Tolstoy specialist who emigrated to the West in 1975, after which he was a regular contributor to émigré literature journals.

Interview in Paris, March 1997. Two sections, 61 minutes, transcript in Russian.

Ernest Ametistov (1934-1998)

Expert on international labour law. He left the Communist Party in 1986 and was a member of the Russian Constitutional Court in the early 1990s.

Interview in Caux-sur-Montreux, August 1994. Two sections, 66 minutes, transcript in Russian and English.

Natalya Bolshakova-Minchenko (1952-)

Founder and main editor of the yearly literary-theological almanac, *Christianos*, as well as the Alexander Men' International Charitable Society.

Interview in Riga, March 2003. Two sections, 94 minutes, short summary in English.

Irina Baskin (1938-)

Leningrad-born theatre critic, who put on French films in Leningrad in the 1960s. Emigrated to France in 1978.

Interview in Paris, March 1997. Two sections, 68 minutes, summary in English.

Ilya Grits (1949-2000)

Bible teacher and scholar. Involved in religious samizdat following his conversion in 1974, and later Dean of St Filaret Higher Christian School (Institute).

Interview in Caux-sur-Montreux, August 1996. Two sections, 60 minutes, short summary in English.

Yuri Karyakin (1930-2011)

Reform-minded literary critic who was forced to leave the CPSU in 1968 for criticizing Stalinism. Involved in the founding of the Memorial Society.

Interview in Moscow, April 1999. Two sections, 68 minutes, transcript in Russian.

Lev Krugly (1931-2011)

Russian actor who worked under Anatoly Efros at the Lenin Komsomol Theatre and appeared in many films. He emigrated to the West in 1979 where he lived in Paris.

Interview in Paris, March 1997. Two sections, 82 minutes, summary in English.

Yuri Lyubimov (1917-2014)

Russian theatre director who founded the Lubyanka theatre company in 1964. In 1984 he was deprived of Soviet citizenship for criticizing the USSR in an interview in London.

Interview in Moscow, April 2003. Two sections, 71 minutes, summary in Russian.

Zoya Maslennikova (1923-2008)

Sculptor and artist, who worked for TASS for some years. After converting to Christianity, she worked as an assistant to Orthodox priest Father Alexander Men'.

Interview in Moscow, April 1996. Three sections, 102 minutes, summary in English.

Mikhail Rozov (1930-2011)

Born in Smolensk. Philosopher of science who worked for various institutes in Siberia 1958-81, before moving back to Moscow.

Interview in Moscow, April 1996. Two sections, 78 minutes, summary in English.

Yuli Shreider (1927-1998)

Ukrainian-born mathematician who became a Catholic in 1970 and later joined the Dominicans. He was interrogated by the KGB in 1983 and thrown out of the Party.

Interview in Moscow, April 1996. Two sections, 90 minutes, transcript in Russian.

Natalya Trauberg (1938-2009)

Writer and translator, known for her translations of English children's literature and Christian classics into Russian.

Interview in Moscow, April 1996. Two sections, 95 minutes, summary in English.

3) Reformers, advisors (6)

Vadim Bakatin (1937-2022)

A construction engineer by profession. A supporter of perestroika, he was Minister of Internal Affairs 1988-90, and Chairman of KGB in late 1991.

Interview in Moscow, March 2003. Two sections, 69 minutes, transcript in Russian.

Nail' Bikennin (1931-2007)

A journalist and thinker supportive of Gorbachev. Appointed editor of the Communist Party journal *Kommunist* in 1987. Member of the Central Committee 1990-91.

Interview in Moscow, April 2003. Two sections, 84 minutes, transcript in Russian.

Anatoly Krasikov (1931-2020)

Journalist with TASS, who became interested in Christianity while working in Rome. For a time, he was a Presidential press spokesman for Yeltsin. Keen advocate of religious freedom.

Interview in Moscow, April 1998. Two sections, 50 minutes, summary in English.

Vadim Medvedev (1929-)

Supporter of perestroika who was a member of the Politburo in the years 1988-90 specialising in ideological questions.

Interview in Moscow, March 2003. Two sections, 70 minutes, transcript in Russian.

Alexander Tsipko (1941-)

Philosopher and writer influential in Party circles during perestroika, and later head of the Gorbachev Foundation.

Interview in Moscow, January 1998. Two sections, 70 minutes, transcript in Russian.

Alexander Yakovlev (1923-2005)

So-called 'architect of perestroika'. Head of Soviet propaganda department 1985-86, and Politburo member 1987-90.

Interview in Moscow, March 2003. Two sections, 50 minutes, transcript in Russian.