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ALBANIA AND THE SOVIET UNION, A COMPLICATED RELATIONSHIP ... A SHORT REVIEW.

Abstract:

Between 1948 and 1960 Albania relied on the Soviet Union. In 1948 the Soviet Union supplied the aid that Albania had lost from its break from Yugoslavia. Albania's factories became dependent on Soviet technology. New elements of the Stalinist economic system were adopted. This included the Soviet process for drawing up the national economic plan. A lot of Soviets arrived in Albania. They were the consultants in every area. The Soviet Union provided active assistance to backward, agrarian Albania in establishing a socialist economy. Hundreds of Soviet civilian and military experts were sent to Albania. There were also large cultural and educational exchanges, with thousands of Albanians (overwhelmingly males) traveling to study in the Soviet Union.

Russian became compulsory in Albanian schools, and attitudes toward Russia had never been as positive in Albania's history. According to information found in Albanian statistical archives, from 1947 to 1961, there were nearly 400 mixed marriages between the ethnic Albanian men and Russian women. Most of these women moved to Albania permanently with their husbands. In this paper I will focus in the the role of Soviets in communist Albania, testimonies, documents, real evocations and lives lived between the two countries. Details about the complicated relationship between the two countries.

Keywords:

Soviet union, Albania, Russian