

Summary

Remodelling the East German Education System

by Artur Meier

At the eve of Germany's reunification there was much hope among critical intellectuals in East and West for democratic reforms at both sides, stepwise and with respect to each other's achievement. Despite some divergences in educational philosophies in East and West Germany deep binding forces of nation's history had kept still structural affinities and functional equivalencies of both educational systems. Moreover, the reform movement in the East introduced participatory democracy, especially in the educational domain.

However, after the Reunification Treaty the situation changed profoundly. The internal reform steps in the East were replaced by political, bureaucratic measures from outside assigning meanings and legitimacy to the West German educational institutions only. The Eastern system of education was destroyed without hesitation, the Western extended without modification.

Thus, the *facts and figures* give evidence for the transformation turning out not as a process of *democratic integration*, but rather as the *incorporation of the weaker part* into the overwhelming powerful stronger one.