

# Autobiographies for the Soviet State

Yury Zaretskiy

Higher School of Economics, Moscow

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Carnegie Research Fellow at ISEEEES

*[yzaretsky@hse.ru](mailto:yzaretsky@hse.ru)*

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# Autobiography, file autobiography, social practice



Photo by John Schultz, 1958



# Examples from the late Soviet period: Autobiography of a peasant, 1960

I, XXX, Vasilii Andreyevich, was born on 30 December 1938 in the family of a collective farmer in the village of Turya in the Krasnopolsk region of Sumskaya oblast'. In 1946 I entered school, which I finished in 1953. After school I worked in the kolkhoz at my birthplace, where I entered into the VLKSM in 1955. In 1957 I was called up by the Soviet army, where I served until October 2 1960. After my demobilization I went to Noril'sk following a call from the enterprise.

My father – XXX Andrei Ivanovich died in 1940 after a heavy illness.

My mother – XXX Tatyana Alexandrovna lives in the village Turya, is now no longer capable of work.

My brother – XXX Ivan Andreevich serves in the Soviet army.

My sisters – Varvara, Galina and Darya are married, and Vera and Nadezhda are studying.

None of my relatives have a criminal record.

31/X-1960.           SIGNATURE

*Историческая справка*

Я Михайловичко Василий Андреевич, родился 30 декабря 1938 года, в семье колхозника в селе Турья Драгнопольского р-на Сумской области. В 1946 году пошел в семилетнюю школу, которую окончил в 1953 году, после школы работал в колхозе по месту рождения, где поступил в 1955 году в члены ВЛКСМ. В 1957 году был призван в Советскую Армию, где прослужил до 2 октября 1960 года. После демобилизации из Селенской Армии я приехал по вызову комбината в город Норильск.

Отец - Михайловичко Андрей Иванович, после тяжелой болезни умер в 1940 году.

Мать - Михайловичко Татьяна Александровна, проживает в селе Турья, в настоящее время она нетрудоспособна.

Брат - Михайловичко Иван Андреевич, служит в Советской Армии.

Сестры - Варвара, Галина и Дарья замужем, а Вера и Надежда учатся.

Из родственников в судебной ответственности никто никто не привлекался.

*Михайловичко*  
31/X-1960.



# Examples from the late Soviet period: Autobiography of a composer, 1971

*Автобиография*

Я Александр Александрович Тенорович, родился в деревне Шафторка Рязанский уезд Скопско-го р-на 10 февраля 1935 года. В 1936 мои родители переехали в Москву. Отец и мать работали на заводе „Компрессор“ Отец – шофер, мать – худож. В 1941 году в Великую Отечественную войну отец погиб у фронт в обороне Москвы. С 1949 года по 1951 году учился в ремесленном училище №5 с. Москвы и получил специальность слесаря. Одновременно влился в оркестр на балке. С 1951 по 1952 работал на ВДНХ. В 1952 году поступил в музыкальную детскую школу Калининского р-на по классу балла и окончил её в 1954 г. В эти же годы работал в ансамбле-концертмейстером в клубе „Дружба“ и работал своим делом в ансамбле музыки.

С 1954 г. по 1957 г. – в войсках Советской Армии, с 1955 г. по 1956 г. в составе 10-й стрелковой дивизии, в 1956 г. – в 10-й стрелковой дивизии. В 1957 г. по 1961 г. в составе 10-й стрелковой дивизии, в 1961 г. по 1962 г. в составе 10-й стрелковой дивизии. С 1957 г. по 1961 г. в составе 10-й стрелковой дивизии, в 1961 г. по 1962 г. в составе 10-й стрелковой дивизии. С 1957 г. по 1961 г. в составе 10-й стрелковой дивизии, в 1961 г. по 1962 г. в составе 10-й стрелковой дивизии.

С 1957 года по настоящее время работаю в Государственном Академическом Большом Театре им. Вагнера в качестве музыканта-солиста. По должности помощник режиссера-дирижера. С 1957 года по настоящее время работаю в Государственном Академическом Большом Театре им. Вагнера в качестве музыканта-солиста. По должности помощник режиссера-дирижера. С 1957 года по настоящее время работаю в Государственном Академическом Большом Театре им. Вагнера в качестве музыканта-солиста. По должности помощник режиссера-дирижера.

В 1971 г. Композитор А. Тенорович

I, XXX, was born in the village of Shaftorka in the Sasovsky region of Ryazan oblast' on 10 February 1935. In 1936 my parents moved to Moscow. My father and mother worked in a factory called "Compressor".

My father was a driver, my mother was a smith.

In 1941 during the Great Patriotic war my father died participating in the defense of Moscow.

From 1949 to 1951 I studied in technical school number 65 in Moscow and received a qualification as a locksmith. At the same time I mastered playing the button accordion. From 1951 to 1952

I worked at VDNKh [Exhibition of Achievements of the People's Economy]. In 1952 I entered the children's musical school in Kalininsky district in the button accordion class and finished it in 1954. In these years I worked as a button accordion concert performer in the club "Friendship" and practiced my abilities in music composition.

From 1954 to 1957 – warrior in the Soviet army, from 1955 – member of the VLKSM. During my years of service in the army I wrote a number of battle, humorous and lyrical songs. Many of them have been published and printed in separate authorial compilations. From 1954, before I entered the army and after my service, I studied composition under A.S. Abramsky, and at that time

finished the 10th class in the school of working youth. From 1959 until 1961 I studied in the musical college named after the Gnesinsy. In 1962 I entered the Moscow GIK [State Institute of Culture] in the conductor-orchestra faculty. From 1957 until the present time I have dedicated my time to patronage activities. Following commands from the Political Department of the Soviet Army, border forces and the TsK of the VLKSM I have been to the frontier outposts of the North, West, Carpathian, Caucasus and Far-East borders. I have been awarded the medal "Distinguished frontier guard," the medal "For distinction in the defense of the state borders of the USSR," the

medal "Miner's glory of the third degree," the medal "For the reclaiming of virgin lands," and two golden stars from the TsK of the Revsomol of Mongolia. For my patronage activities in the armed forces and

among student youth and workers I have approximately 150 (one hundred and fifty) distinguished awards, diplomas and laureate medals. From 1954 my compositions have entered the repertoire of many Russian

folk choirs, ensembles and individual singers. More than 500 songs have been written. Among them the most famous in the country and abroad are "On his vacation a young sailor is going," "Kind mother," "I am waiting for you," "Open-hearted lads". [I have written] music for theater performances, films and instrumental plays. As a composer with creative groups I have visited many times GDR, Mongolia, Rumania, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Sweden, Switzerland etc.

December 1971.

Composer XXX.



# Examples from the late Soviet period: Autobiography of a college teacher, 1972

Автобиография.

Я Святослав Славович родился в 1918 году в семье рабочего. После окончания средней школы в 1936 году поступил в Ленинградский политехнический институт. В феврале 1939 года по специальной процедуре был призван в ряды Советской Армии и направлен в Севастопольский артиллерийский полк. В августе 1941 года был направлен в состав бригады морской пехоты Черноморского флота. В декабре 1941 года был направлен в состав бригады морской пехоты Черноморского флота. В декабре 1941 года был направлен в состав бригады морской пехоты Черноморского флота.

На службе в бригаде морской пехоты Черноморского флота. В декабре 1941 года был направлен в состав бригады морской пехоты Черноморского флота. В декабре 1941 года был направлен в состав бригады морской пехоты Черноморского флота.

В августе 1941 года был направлен в состав бригады морской пехоты Черноморского флота. В декабре 1941 года был направлен в состав бригады морской пехоты Черноморского флота. В декабре 1941 года был направлен в состав бригады морской пехоты Черноморского флота.

Святослав

7/1972

20

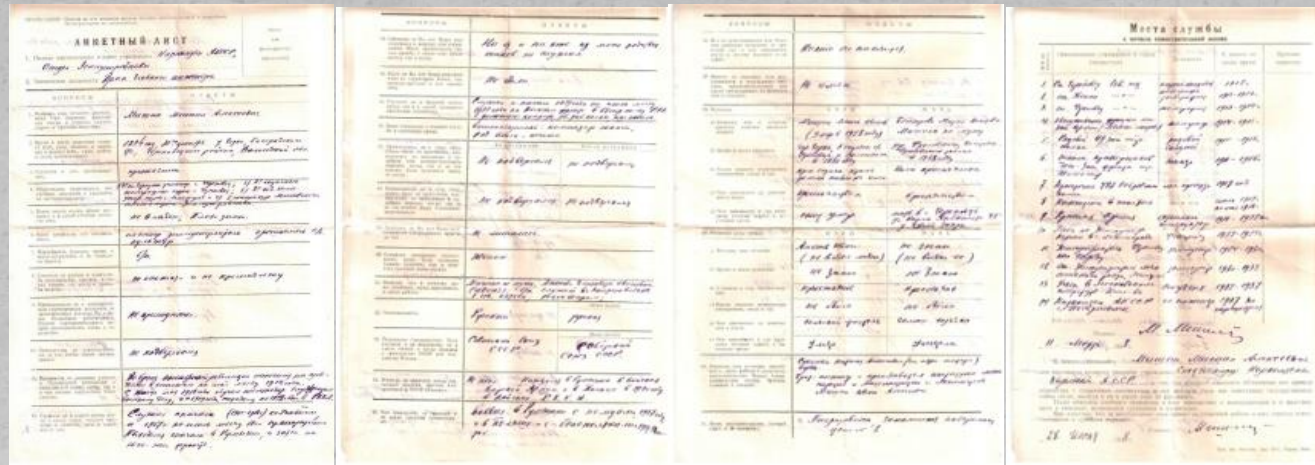
I, XXX, was born in 1918, 18 March in the family of a worker. After finishing secondary school in 1935 I entered Moscow State University, where I studied until February 1939. In February 1939 following a special selection process I was called to the Soviet Armed Forces and sent to study in the Sevastopol higher military-naval college, where I was until the start of the Great Patriotic war. On June 22 1941 I was sent from the college as a senior electrician to the squadron destroyer "Moskva" and then on the cruiser "Krasnyi Krym." I participated in battles with the German-fascist occupiers as a member of the Black sea fleet. After the sinking of the cruiser I was enlisted to the third corps of naval infantry. I participated in the defense of Sevastopol. From 1943 I was part of various divisions of the Soviet Army. I commanded a firing platoon of mine-throwers, was the commander of a platoon of anti-tank rifles. In 1945 I was appointed a Komsomol leader of a mine-throwers' battalion. In December 1945 I was demobilized. From January 1946 I worked as the Komsomol leader of TsK VLKSM at the Kemerovskaya hydroelectric power station, I was first secretary of the Central regional committee of Komsomol in Kemerovo city, and from June 1947 I was assistant to the chairman of the executive committee of Kemerovsk oblast'. In February 1949 by the decision of the Oblast' executive committee I was appointed acting director of the oblast' lecture bureau. In 1956 I transferred to work as the director of the scientific-technical library of Kemerovo mining institute, where I worked until June 1960. From June 1960 until June 1968 I worked as the acting executive of the department of inquiry-information data of Kemerovo information center, and then deputy director for scientific work. From the 1969-70 academic year, I first worked as a senior lecturer of Kemerovsky Institute, and then in August 1970 was chosen for the position of associate professor and acting head of the department of library studies and bibliography. I became a candidate member of the CPSU in 1944 and a member of the CPSU in March 1946. For participation in battles I have been granted with two awards and five medals. I became engaged in academic-research work in 1960. Since that time with my involvement a number of academic investigations have been carried out according to the plan passed by the GK SM [State Committee of the Council of Ministers] of the USSR for science and technology. An automated search system "Quantor," which has been introduced into the work practice of 14 information centers, was developed by me. My pedagogic activity in the institute of culture I began as a visiting lecturer from 1962 in the Moscow institute of Culture, and then in the Kemerovsk institute, first as senior lecturer, and then as acting head of the department of library studies and bibliography.

I take part in social work.  
7/VI 1972 SIGNATURE



# Autobiography and Anketa (Questionnaire)

Ex. # 1



Anketa, 1938

1. Surname, name, patronymic (pseudonym). In the event of a change of surname or name, or patronymic state the old and the reasons for the change.
2. The date and place of birth with the old (gubernia, uезд, volost' and village) and the new (oblast', krai, raion and selo) district names.
3. Estate and social background.
4. Education (list all educational institutions and state their location).
5. What languages do you know, apart from Russian, and to what extent do you know them.
6. Your profession and special area.
7. Your party status (state the time and place of your joining and the number of your membership card).
8. Were you previously a member of any other political parties, of which precisely, where, when and reason for leaving.
9. Did you belong to anti-party groups, did you or your close relatives share their anti-party views. Which party organizations reviewed the question, when and their decision.
10. Were you subjected to party searches, for what, when, by which organization.
11. Did you take an active part in the October revolution and civil war, when, where and in what exactly did your participation express itself.
12. Did you serve in the old army, when, in which division, for how long, in what capacity and were you commissioned.
13. Did you or your relatives serve in forces or institutions of the white governments (white armies), in which rank (position), where and when.
14. Were you or your relatives on the territory of the whites, where, for how long and what were you doing.
15. Did you serve in the Red Army, when, where and in what position (last position).
16. Your relation to military service in the present time.
17. Have you been brought before the law, a criminal investigation, have you been arrested, subject to punishment in a court or administrative order, when, where, for what exactly. If your criminal record has been rescinded, when (before the revolution/after the revolution).
18. Have your close relatives been brought before the law, a criminal investigation, arrested, subject to punishment in a court, when, where, for what exactly (before the revolution/after the revolution).
19. Have you or your relatives been stripped of your right to vote and for what.
20. Your family status (bachelor, married, widower). If divorced, state the family, name and patronymic of your former wife (husband).
21. Surname, name and patronymic of your wife (maiden name), husband, their party status and place work.
22. Nationality (of wife/husband).
23. Citizenship. If you were a subject of another state, then in which exactly and when were you accepted into citizenship in the USSR or the nationality of Russia (of the wife/husband).
24. Have you lived abroad, when, where, for how long, reason of return to the USSR (Russia).
25. What did you do abroad and on what means did you live.
26. Who of your relatives or close acquaintances is living abroad, where, what are they doing, when and why did they leave and their address.
27. Do you have acquaintances or relatives in foreign missions, representatives or among foreign nationals, their surname, name and patronymic.
28. Parents (father/mother): a) Surname, name and patronymic (state the maiden name of your mother). b) Date and place of birth. c) What property did they possess, when and where. d) What did they do before the revolution and after it. e) What are they doing now and where are they living (exact address) now.
29. Relatives of wife (husband): a) Surname, name and patronymic (state the maiden name of your mother). b) Date and place of birth. c) Estate and social background d) What property did they possess, when and where. e) What did they do before the revolution and after it. f) What are they doing now and where are they living (exact address) now.
30. Surname, name, patronymic, party status, place of work and position of your adult sisters, brothers, sons and daughters.
31. Your place of residence (exact address and telephone number).



# Autobiography and *Anketa* (Questionnaire)

Ex. #2

The image shows two pages of a Soviet-era questionnaire form. The left page is titled "ЛИЧНЫЙ ЛИСТ ПО УЧЕТУ КАДРОВ" (Personal Card for Staff Accounting). It contains sections for personal data (1-4), nationality and social background (5-7), education (8), foreign languages (9), academic works (10), party membership (11), military service (12), and family situation (13). The right page is titled "14. Выполненная работа с начала трудовой деятельности" (Work performed since the start of the working career) and contains a table for recording work experience with columns for dates, types of work, and organizational affiliations.

Anketa, late 1950's - 1960's

1. Family, name, patronymic
2. Sex 3. Year, date and month of birth
4. Place of birth (village, town, district, province)
5. Nationality 6. Social background
7. Party status, length of party membership (month and year of joining), membership card number
8. Are you a member of the VLKSM, from what time and membership number
9. Education (name of educational institution and its location, faculty or department, year of entry, year of completion or leaving, if you did not finish then from which year did you leave, what qualification did you receive as a result on leaving the educational institution, state the number of diploma or certificate)
10. Which foreign languages and languages of the people of the USSR do you know (are you able to read, translate with a dictionary, read and can explain yourself, speak fluently)
11. Academic degree and title
12. What academic works and inventions do you have
13. Completed work from the start of your working career (including study in higher and middle specialist educational institutions, military service, participation in partisan divisions and part-time work)...
14. Travel abroad (work, professional trips, visits as part of a delegation): Month and year (beginning and end of trips) in which country, purpose of visit abroad
15. Participation in central, republican, regional, provincial, district, town, local, party, Soviet and other elected organs...
16. What state awards do you have
17. Do you have party penalties (yes/no). When, what position did you have, for what and what penalty was imposed
18. Relation to compulsory military service and military rank. Division. Type of armed forces
19. Family situation at the moment of the completion of the personal file (list members of your family and their age)
20. Home address.



## Individual strategies: Three cases



Abram Fyodorovich  
Ioffe (1880-1960)



Nikolai Nikolaevich  
Semenov (1896-1986)



Yevgeny Fedorovich  
Gross (1897-1972)



# After the USSR

фото

ЛИЧНЫЙ ЛИСТОК  
на учет кадров

Имя Александр  
Фамилия Тарасов  
Отчество Александрович

2. Пол муж  
3. Год, число и месяц рождения 19. 11. 1974  
4. Место рождения Поселок городского типа "Троица"  
(село, деревня, город, район)  
5. Образование высшее

Название учебного заведения	Факультет или отделение	Год поступления	Год окончания	Качество обучения в результате окончания учебного заведения, указать № диплома	Специальность учебного заведения
Туркский государственный педагогический институт	филология	1994	1998	удовлетворительно	филология
Туркский государственный университет	филология	1998	1998	удовлетворительно	филология

6. Какими иностранными языками владеете  
английский  
(читаете и переводите со словарем, читаете и можете объясняться, владеете свободно)

7. Место работы МОУ "Школа гимназического типа"  
Муниципальное образование "Троица"

8. Отношение к воинской обязанности и воинское звание \_\_\_\_\_

9. Семейное положение в момент заполнения личного листа замужем

10. Домашний адрес с. Троица, ул. Школьная, д. 15  
Телефон 56-...  
19. 09. 2010 г.

Личная подпись Александр Тарасов

Anketa, 2010

Приложение № 7.

Примерный план написания автобиографии  
для поступающих в Московскую Православную Духовную Академию  
(пишется в повествовательном стиле)

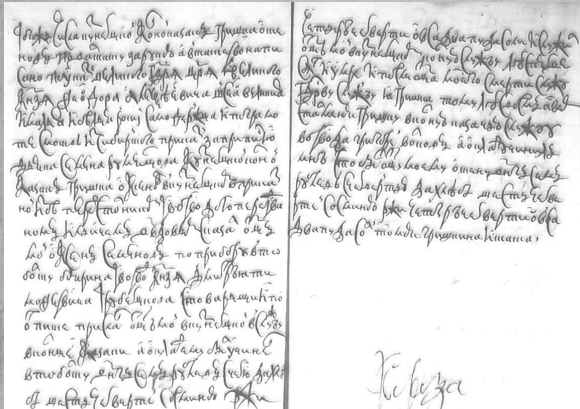
- Я, Ф. И. О., родился (число, месяц, год и место рождения).
- Где (храм, епархия) и когда принял таинство Крещения.
- Семейное положение: холост, женат церковным или гражданским браком (*первым или вторым браком, дата вступления в брак*), разведён (*дата развода*), для женатых указать имя, отчество и девичью фамилию жены. Есть ли дети и их возраст.
- Национальность.
- Указать наличие полного среднего образования (*название учебного заведения и дата его окончания*).
- Учился ли в светских и духовных учебных заведениях (*название учебного заведения (факультета) и период обучения*). Указать специальность, по которой обучался, научную степень.
- Указать данные (*если имеются*) о работе (*организация, место, профессия, период работы*) до поступления в Духовную школу.
- Указать данные о прохождении церковного послушания (*храм, епархия, в качестве кого нес послушание, какое время*).
- Отношение к военной службе: служил (*где и когда*), призывник, освобождён (*по какой статье – указать номер статьи и причину освобождения*), офицер запаса.
- Поступал ли раньше в духовные образовательные организации (*где и когда*).
- В случае наличия монашеского (иноческого) пострига указать, где, когда и кем совершён постриг.
- В случае наличия священного сана (*иерей или диакон*) или сана церковнослужителя (*чтец*) указать, где, когда и кем совершена хиротония или хиротесия.
- Был ли судим церковным или гражданским судом?
- В случае наличия светских или церковных наград – указать об этом.
- В случае участия в политических и общественных организациях – указать о факте членства в них.
- Есть ли вредные привычки (*курение, алкоголь, наркотики и т. п.*).
- Фамилия, имя, отчество, место работы и профессия родителей.
- Где и от кого получена рекомендация (*епархия, храм, имя и фамилия священника*) кем рекомендация заверена (*имя архиерея и его титул*).
- Точный домашний адрес (*в том числе почтовый индекс, номер телефона (мобильного и домашнего)*), в случае проживания за границей – адрес на государственном языке страны проживания).

«\_\_» \_\_\_\_\_ 2015 г. \_\_\_\_\_  
(подпись абитуриента) \_\_\_\_\_ Ф.И.О. \_\_\_\_\_

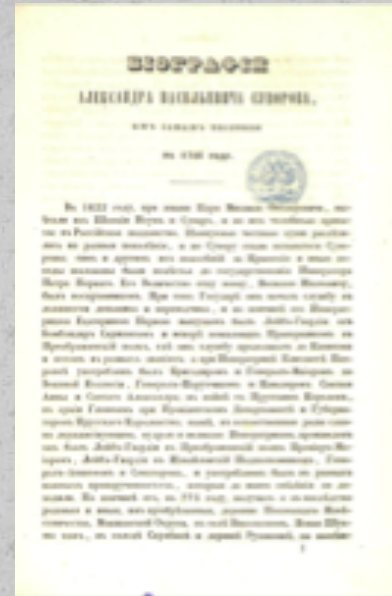
Suggested plan for writing autobiography for entering to the Moscow Theological Academy, 2015



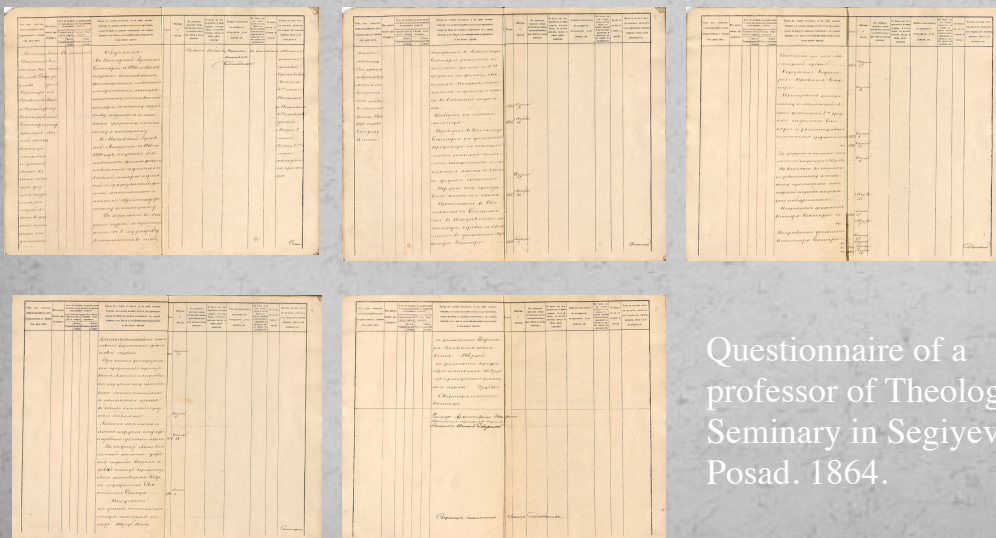
# Backstory



Skaska by cossack Grishka Oksenov  
(between 1676 and 1682)



Two autobiographies of Aleksnder  
Vasilyevich Suvorov (of 1786 and 1790)



Questionnaire of a  
professor of Theological  
Seminary in Segiyev  
Posad. 1864.



# The individual, the state, and the file autobiography



**Petra Hinz** (born 10 June 1962), member of the SPD. Since 2005, has been a MP of the German Bundestag. She resigned from her Bundestag seat after a CV scandal with effect of 1 September 2016.