MARIYA BOYKO, University of Toronto, Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology Mathematics Curriculum Reform in the USSR (1960s, 1970s) and Pedagogical Innovations of Professor Kolmogorov

During the 1960s the USSR faced a major education reform initiated by the Soviet government. Andrei Kolmogorov, professor of mathematics at Moscow State University, was involved in restructuring the mathematics curriculum and was appointed as head of the mathematics committee of the Scientific Methodological Council of the USSR in 1970. He aimed to merge rigorous and non-rigorous ways of mathematical thinking in the minds of the students. Kolmogorov introduced a collection of pedagogical innovations that emphasized set theory, a deductive logical approach and pre-calculus in the new curriculum. We will discuss the benefits and the shortcomings of Kolmogorov's ideas, consider their intellectual, political and social context and outline his pedagogical legacy.