

Incredible Info #8
Religion & Atheism in the USSR, 1920s – 1940s

Super-Excellent Timeline

- 1925 Death of Patriarch Tikhon; Metropolitan Sergii serves as successor
 Creation of the League of the Godless
- 1926 Beginnings of major anti-Islamic campaigns in Central Asia
- 1927 Beginning of *hujum* (assault on women's veiling in Central Asia)
 Orthodox Metropolitan Sergii issues statement of loyalty to Soviet regime.¹
- 1929 New decree declares all church property to be property of the people
 New law on religious cults criminalizes unregistered religious activity
- 1930 Ukrainian Orthodox Autocephalous Church compelled to liquidate itself
- 1932 End of the Stalinist "cultural revolution"
- 1936 Stalin Constitution guarantees Soviet citizens "freedom of conscience"
- 1941 Nazi invasion of USSR; revival of religious life in many occupied territories
- 1942 League of Militant Godless is shut down; little or no anti-religious literature til 1947
- 1943 Metropolitan Sergii formally elected Orthodox Patriarch with Stalin's blessing
 Creation of Council for Russian Orthodox Church Affairs (CAROC)
 Reconciliation of Russian & Georgian churches; Georgian autocephaly retained
 Spiritual Administration for Muslims in Central Asia (SADUM) created
- 1944 Creation of spiritual administrations for Muslims in Caucasus region
 Establishment of Council for Affairs of Religious Cults (CARA) for non-Orthodox
 Death of Orthodox Patriarch Sergii
- 1945 Election of Metropolitan of Leningrad Aleksii as Orthodox Patriarch
- 1946 L'viv Sobor unites Greek Catholics of western Ukraine with Orthodox Church.²
 Formal dismantling of Renovationism (pro-Bolshevik "Living Church")
 Creation of a central spiritual administration for Buddhists
- 1949 Elimination of Greek Catholic Church in Subcarpathia.³

Awesome Triads

Islam Bolsheviks Jadids	Islam Communism Central Asia
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¹ Orthodox Georgian Catholicos Kristopore II issues a similar statement of loyalty.

² The Uniate (Greek Catholic) Church had continued to exist in Poland between the world wars. Eastern Poland (western Ukraine & Belarus) were incorporated into the USSR in 1945.

³ These were communities that had been in Czechoslovakia between the wars but whose territory was annexed by the USSR in 1945.