

February 23, "lessons of courage" and gender stereotypes

February 23 many perceive as gender holiday, almost not connected with the army — just as the male counterpart on March 8. About how he appeared, almost do not remember.

Excursions into history, by the way, can lead to a revision of this date as 23 Feb 1918 no victories near Pskov and Narva (contrary to the Stalinist myth), the Red army did not commit, and she only barely started.

But for students it's not just "boyish" holiday: it specifies a particular form of what it means to be a man. This sends the name itself: man is primarily a warrior, a "defender of the Fatherland".

Events dedicated to the holiday, and its very symbolism imposed on anyone who can't Dodge, well-defined meanings and concepts of masculinity. And students in this respect — almost the most vulnerable category.

Children's military parade in Rostov-on-don. May 2015.

Source: rostovondon.dirty.ru

February 23 and gender indoctrination

In schools across the country since the beginning of February held "Lessons of courage" — extracurricular activities military-Patriotic character, dedicated to the Day of defender of the Fatherland. This is the Soviet tradition, which was revived in 2000-ies. In 2010, the Ministry of education and the DOSAAF (Voluntary society of assistance to army, aviation and fleet) has developed guidelines for the "Lessons of courage" and the detailed lesson plans that apply today.

Before the start of the lesson (7-10 min.) with songs about the great Patriotic war.

Quoted Karamzin, author of "history of the Russian state," "which was based not only on knowledge, but also the feelings of patriotism": "I know you need the impartiality of the historian: sorry, I could not always hide the love for the Fatherland...". Lists of writers-patriots: Dostoevsky, Belinsky, Pushkin.

Given guidance for young people: "to Overcome the self-centeredness, individualism, the pursuit of consumerism helps participation in voluntary associations, especially Patriotic".

— From the Directive of the Ministry of education "About carrying out of lessons of courage devoted to the 65th anniversary of Victory in great Patriotic war"

"Lessons of courage" is not always tied to the great Patriotic war: they can be devoted to individual battles from other periods of history, generals, or other male characters. But the subject always has a militaristic connotation in Chelyabinsk this year, for example, schoolchildren were taken to the police Department and familiarized with the weapons and the work of the custodians of law and order.

Children's postcards for February 23.

Source: detpodelki.ru

Interestingly, as celebrated on 23 February in the schools regardless of the "Lessons of courage". The female part of the class traditionally congratulates men's, presenting notebooks, socks and postcards, but not limited to: the school or the teacher, as a rule, organized an event dedicated to the holiday. Scenarios of such events can be found, for example, the portal "Training and methodical study":

The defender of the Fatherland day — a holiday that requires you to use in the design space military paraphernalia. So take the time to produce different kinds of flags and garlands of them will solemnly and beautifully. You should not depart from tradition in another question. Prepare the newspaper on the military theme. [...]

Leading (*commanded by myself*).

One-two, left! One-two, right

(The audience.) In the present day, guys,

Only order to go,

As the sailors and soldiers, —

In General, to serve in the army.

I'm still the guy's a civilian;

I used to study to endure,

But the service from the soldier

Not intend to shirk.

And no matter what I will be,

Where I have to serve,
I oath be true —
The only way can be!

— From the script of the school holiday on February 23. Methodical development for teachers.

A man in such events is presented as the one who is in the military, does his "duty". Sometimes I get the impression that other functions he is not there. "Male" the feast is inextricably linked with the celebration of the military.

Soviet postcards for February 23.

Source: streamx.livejournal.com

Anthropologists who study gender differences in different cultures, note that the manhood is always understood as something problematic: the way in which young men have to go through the ordeal.

The boys from the Amhara people, for example, cover hands with scars from the burning coals were subjected to scourging and beating by adults. The natives of the island of Track in the South Pacific ocean, travel to open sea, fishing in waters teeming with sharks, regularly get drunk and take part in Saturday's fights, and those who do not, always faces humiliation and violence:

"Are you a man? Let's battle and I'll take your life right now".

About the same would threaten and current students, if all implicitly adopted the only ideal image of a man: a male warrior, ready to lay down his life for the Motherland in any circumstances without discussing the level of responsibility of a state for its policy of not asking too many questions.

Fortunately, it is not. While the government is [assignment writing](#) trying to maintain the dominant model of masculinity as a service to the same state that today's cultural environment is much more diverse: it has a variety of images of men and male behavior.

Source: pinterest.com

Supporters of conscription, who complain that not all young men want to serve in the army, can Express on this occasion a regret that "today the concept of honor and dignity do not always have the weight", but it does not specify what exactly they mean by "honor" and "dignity," and just Express my point of view as the only and undoubted.

But the opposite is true: as noted by the same anthropologists, the differences between the average man and woman garazno smaller than the variations within each gender. Masculinity should not be monopolized by government and military sector.

A person who is already able to form their identity, just shy of the ideological content of the holiday and creates its own interpretation — for example:

After having reflected, I decided that the defender of the Fatherland Day – a day of "warriors", but not those with weapons to guard the borders of the Motherland. This is the day people who want to improve their country that reach out to the people who teaches people goodness and consciousness.

— Andrey Kostinstudent of Moscow state technical University of Radioengineering, electronics and automation

But students who have to heed the "Lessons of courage" and festive events, is not always capable of it. As a result, the holiday gives them boredom, rejection or shame due to the mismatch between imposed ideals.

Meanwhile, the "male holiday" could be a good occasion to reflect on what is happening in real, not mythological world: about the multiplicity of gender roles, the changing position of "male" and "female", honor and dignity, which are not necessarily associated with the protection of the state borders.

Maybe not necessary to reduce the main male holiday only to "defender Otechestva"?

In the design of articles used paintings of "Farmers welcome tankers" Catherine Grain (1937).