

Tõnu Pedaru

Exposing the Soviet Period — Just the Agitprop or Something More?

The fact of establishing the town by the Germans and Danes in the early 13th century was being ignored and the golden age of Tallinn (Reval) as the thriving hanseatic merchant city in the middle ages downplayed. The focus of the exposition was on covering the period from 18th century, while Tallinn was taken over by Russia to contemporary ages - manifesting the positive transformation of the town to the triumphantly flourishing capital of the Soviet Estonia.

In 1995, 3 years after Estionias regained independence, museum opened its first „free hands to compose“ exposition enabling public access to „forbidden fruits“: especially the period of the first Estonian republic and hanseatic age. As the sign of the times - the Soviet period was excluded at all.

Current exposition of TCM was opened in 2001. The goal was to go through the phases of the town`s history with open mind and without judgement. With rather limited space in hands to fit the complex past it was a challenge with the choices. „Soviet period in Tallinn“, displayed in the little red hall, is getting both acclaims and criticism. But increase of public interest towards difficult and controversial issues of the Soviet period is indisputable. There`s a lot to learn from the 10 year experience and feedback recieved as museum is about to start the work on the new concept of the exposition.

CV

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