

## THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION IN RUSSIA TODAY

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**Abstract.** The paper includes three parts: The first part gives a survey about Theological education in Russia before the Communist revolution of 1917. The second part deals with the revival of Theological education, which started on a very low level with the refounding of the Spiritual Academies in 1944 and continued with the celebrations of the millenium of Christianity in Russia in the eighties. But only after 1989 it became possible to reestablish theology as an Academic discipline and to found new institutions. Most of them are Church-institutions; and even today only very few are on an Academic level according to international standards. One of them is the Biblical Institute of the Philological Faculty of St. Petersburg State University, whose activities are described in the third section of the paper.

**Keywords:** Education, Russia, Biblical Philology, Spiritual Academy, Orthodox, Bibliotheca Biblica

The paper includes three parts:

- 1) Theological education in Russia before 1917.
- 2) Its forms today.
- 3) The position of SPbSU Biblical Philology.

### I Theological education in Russia before 1917

The development of Russian education system may be presented in short as it follows:

The first public East Slavic schools arose in the Eastern provinces of Poland by the close of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. They were Orthodox and aimed at religious education and served apologetic purposes in Roman Catholic and Lutheran environments. In the middle of the 17<sup>th</sup> century the Orthodox Metropolitan Academy was established in Kiev, and at the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century the Slavonic-Greek-Latin Academy was established in Moscow. All of these schools were based on the pattern of *collegium trilinguae*, which were established by European humanists of the 16<sup>th</sup> century and had their aim in publication of printing polyglot Bibles. This type of school became the national model of theological education and survived with slight modifications up to this day. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century four Theological Academies were founded in St. Petersburg, Moscow, Kiev and Kazan.