

OPENING THE RED DOOR

Curriculum Guides – Discussion Questions



LEADER'S GUIDE

The Role of the Christian College Coalition (CCC) and its Member Schools

1. How would you evaluate the response of the CCC's leadership – both the CCC's Board of Directors and the president and staff – to this invitation to launch the "Russian Initiative" and especially the Russian-American Christian University (RACU)?
 - pp. 6-13 – Member schools express interest in opportunities for educational exchanges with the USSR
 - pp. 14-16 – Hosting Soviet guests
 - p. 36 – President Augsburg's response
 - pp. 44-45 – A "unique opportunity"
 - pp. 66-69 – The "Russian Initiative"
 - pp. 78 – CCC's Board is hesitant
 - p. 84 – Permission to proceed, but no direct CCC funding
2. How would you assess the response of the member colleges and universities of the CCC?
 - p. 38 – First schools get involved in exchanges
 - pp. 41-45 – Faculty chosen for the MBA project
 - p. 68 – Member schools join the "Russian Initiative"
 - p. 98 – More member schools get involved in the former USSR
 - p. 230 – 120 American faculty volunteer to teach at RACU
3. From the beginning, the CCC Board of Directors decided not to invest in any of the organization's funding related to the creation of a faith-based liberal arts college in Russia, but they did provide modest support for other related programs in Russia. Why do you think this decision was made?
 - p. 36 – CCC is a service organization for its members

4. Are you surprised by the number of CCC member colleges and universities that joined the “Russian Initiative” and made modest financial contributions to its cooperative programs?
 - p. 98 – More member schools get involved in the former USSR
5. If you were the president or academic dean of a CCC college or university, would you have encouraged your faculty to serve as volunteer teachers at RACU? What are the risks involved here and how did those who taught at RACU evaluate their experience?
 - pp. 107-108 – Reactions from the first English Language Institute
 - pp. 120-123 – Testimonies of ELI faculty from the second institute
6. After reading through the history of RACU, how did the decision of the CCC’s Board to end any funding for the school in June 1994 affect what happened? What were the negative and positive results of this decision?
 - pp. 99-100 – CCC decides to end funding for RACU
7. Why do you think Protestant educators were reluctant to take advantage of the “opening of the Red Door” in the early 1990s, while Catholic entities started five universities in Eastern Europe and one in Australia during this period of history?
 - For a helpful commentary on this subject, see Perry Glanzer’s review of **Opening the Red Door** in “The Review of Faith & International Affairs” (Fall 2020).