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In the GDR, the state had a tremendous influence on education. Today we frequently read about the political indoctrination of youth in the GDR educational system. But, of course, the GDR wasn't the only country to impart political and societal values through education. Can education be objective?

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"Education is never objective; it is always meant to point students in a certain direction. Education in democratic states aims to familiarize the next generation with the rules of a democratic society; education in a dictatorship serves as socialization according to the rules of the dictatorship. Therefore, education always strives to introduce children and young adults to the norms that apply in the society in which they live. The decisive difference between the GDR and actual democracies lies in the fact that democratic education is open to the public discussion of divergent opinions. What is right and what is wrong can be discussed, and vastly different opinions are accepted. In the GDR, merely articulating an opinion that contradicted with the state's beliefs was considered a crime and could prevent continuing education opportunities, and, in the most extreme cases, result in imprisonment. Education in the GDR thus never taught freedom of speech or diverse opinions, but rather a one-sided and unquestionable world view proclaimed by the state. Anyone who didn't agree with this interpretation became an enemy of the state."

