



*The Development of Mind*  
by Aleksei Nikolaevich Leontyev

A.N. Leontyev (1904-1979) was one of the founders of the Soviet school of Marxist psychology, along with Lev Vygotsky and Alexander Luria. Leontyev is noted for his elaboration of “Activity Theory.”

In 1921, he began study at the historical-philological Faculty of the Moscow State Lomonosov University, where G.I. Chelpanov was teaching psychology. After graduating in 1924, he worked closely with Lev Vygotsky until Vygotsky’s death in 1934. In 1931, he was appointed to one of the psychological institutions in Kharkov, and in 1950 became the Head of Psychology at the Faculty of Philosophy of MGU.

Leontyev studied deliberate memory and attention and developed his own theory of activity which linked the social context to development. He formulated the concept of activity as a foundation for the human sciences. Activity is a collective system driven by an object and motive. An activity is realized through individual actions oriented to goals. Actions in turn are realized by means of routinised operations, dependent on the conditions of the action.

Leontyev remained the Faculty Dean and head of the Department of General Psychology until his death from a heart attack in 1979.

This edition of *The Development of Mind* includes the short version of *Activity and Consciousness*, thus covering all of Leontyev’s major works which have been translated into English, and a short preface by Mike Cole.



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