

БЪЛГАРСКА АКАДЕМИЯ НА НАУКИТЕ ИНСТИТУТ ЗА ИСТОРИЧЕСКИ ИЗСЛЕДВАНИЯ		
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REVIEW

by Prof. Dr.Sc. Todor Petrov Petrov,
about the thesis of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rumen Vasilev Karaganev on the topic „International Danube Commission and Bulgaria 1919-1940 (continued until 1944)” presented for the degree of Doctor of Historical Sciences in the field of 2.”Humanitarian Studies”, professional field 2.2.”History and Archeology”, scientific specialty „History of Bulgaria”, code 05.03.06.

The thesis of Assoc. Prof. Rumen Karaganev is devoted to one underdeveloped problem in Bulgarian historiography, namely – the participation of Bulgaria in the International Danube Commission (IDC) and the Danube River as a subject of its activity during the period 1919–1940. However, the author extended the time period of his work to 1944 when the Commission was reorganized. The lack of research on the topic predetermines the aim of the work, fixed on pages 31-32, precisely, „focusing on cause and effect searches regarding to the wide range of political manifestations of IDC / Bulgaria in international aspect, as well as two-dimensional range in terms of the Kingdom / IDC and Kingdom / Danube correlations”. The work is elaborated and structured according to the requirements of the problem-chronological approach, and the applied methodology contributes to the achievement of the main purpose. The work consists of 426 pages. It is comprised of an introduction, 2 chapters with relevant paragraphs and a conclusion. At the end there is a list of used bibliography – archives, studies, periodicals, etc. A chronological table of significant events on the topic, a dictionary of specific terms used in the work and two maps are attached as well.

What are the merits of the thesis?

The provisions of the Neuilly peace treaty, signed in 1919, on the role, obligations and rights of Bulgaria in the Danube river system are presented and analyzed in depth.

The essence and tasks of the International Danube Commission (IDC) as an institution regulating the navigation on the Danube river after the First World War is clarified as well as its structure, goals, functions and composition. The revelation of the activity and its importance as a regulatory body in the Danube river space is also a contribution of the author.

The author presented the participation of Bulgaria in the international conference in Paris (1920–1921), convened in connection with the drafting of an agreement between IDC states on the navigation on the river (Final Status of the Danube), the Bulgarian position and proposals during the forum and the decisions taken as a result of the conference.

The Bulgarian position regarding the Danube, the participation and the role of the country in the IDC and the opportunity to benefit from favorable economic conditions due to its membership are highlighted, too. The attitude of the Bulgarian institutions involved, their position on the issue, the public opinion, the achieved benefits and advantages for the country are also examined by Dr. Karaganev.

The author monitored the changes in international relations during the research period and their impact on the activities of the IDC. The altered configuration of the Danube river space imposed by Germany is revealed, as well as the implications and consequences for different countries and for Bulgaria, the relationship between the events accompanying the 1940 Provisional Rules Conference, the Romania's return of Southern Dobrudzha to Bulgaria.

Terminological and factual clarifications and additions are made. New information on problems and events are corrected and added. Unknown or little known names of persons related to the topic are discovered. Events and facts are dated and specified.

The outcomes of the research carried out in the thesis are a result of the personal work of Dr. Karaganev. They are based on thorough knowledge of the

different sources. They are an expression of personal analysis, interpretations and summaries performed by the author and contribute to the enrichment of the knowledge on the topic. Assoc. Prof. Karaganev has the required publications, regarding the topic of the thesis that reflect his individual scientometric indicators and meet the minimum requirements set by the Institute for Historical Studies. The abstract is written in accordance with the requirements and correctly presents the basic principles of the scientific contributions of the work.

I have no obstructions to the content of the contributions mentioned by the author, but in my opinion they could be presented in a more systematic way. I sincerely hope that in future the author will extend his research beyond 1944 so that an overall study on the problem appears.

In conclusion, I will note that the elaborated thesis meets the requirements for the degree of „Doctor of Historical Sciences” in accordance with the existing legal framework in Bulgaria. In view of all of the above, and bearing in mind the merits of the thesis and the scientific results achieved, as well as my positive assessment, I suggest that the members of the honorable scientific jury to award of Assoc. Prof. Rumen Vasilev Karaganev with the scientific degree „Doctor of Historical Sciences” in the field of 2.”Humanitarian Studies”, professional field 2.2. „History and Archeology”, scientific specialty „History of Bulgaria”, code 05.03.06.

December 20, 2019

Reviewer:



Prof. Dr.Sc. Todor Petrov