

REVIEW
BY
PROF. DOCTOR OF HISTORICAL SCIENCES
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SELECTED BY ORDER №19 / 01.03.2021, APPOINTED BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE FOR HISTORICAL STUDIES IN BAS AS A MEMBER OF THE JURY FOR ACADEMIC POSITIONS "ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR" TO IHIST-BAS IN PROFESSIONAL FIELD 2.2 HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY, SCIENTIFIC SPECIALTY "HISTORY OF BULGARIA" (THE MACEDONIAN QUESTION IN THE BULGARIAN-ALBANIAN RELATIONS (1878-1944) FOR THE NEEDS OF "HISTORY OF THE BULGARIAN NATIONAL QUESTION" ANNOUNCED IN THE "OFFICIAL GAZETTE" (VOL. 110 OF 29/12/2020).

According to Art. 24, para. 3, items 1–11 from the Rules of terms and conditions for the acquisition of scientific degrees and academic positions at the Institute for Historical Studies at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, the following participants have been accepted to the contest: 1. Ch. Assist.Prof. Voyn Konstantinov Bozhinov Ph.D and 2. Ch. Assist.Prof. Georgi Nikolov Georgiev Ph.D, both from The Institute for Historical Studies - BAS. My assessment will go in a parallel alphabetical order.

1. Information about the contest and the participants

Ch. Assist.Prof. Voyn Konstantinov Bozhinov Ph.D holds a Master's degree in History from University of Sofia "Kliment Ohridski". Doctoral student at the same university in the period 2002-2005, doctor - 2005. Research associate II degree - 2005 -2006, research associate I degree- 2006-2008, chief assistant since 2008 at The Institute for Historical Studies - BAS.

Ch. Assist.Prof. Georgi Nikolov Georgiev Ph.D ,holds a Master's degree in History from the University of Veliko Tarnovo "St. St. Cyril and Methodius". He was also a teacher and a museum curator. A PhD student on a self-study basis in the Institute of History at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences in the period 2005-

БЪЛГАРСКА АКАДЕМИЯ НА НАУКИТЕ	
ИНСТИТУТ ЗА ИСТОРИЧЕСКИ ИЗСЛЕДВАНИЯ	
Изходящ №	дата 201 г.
Входящ № 269	дата 2.04 20 21 г.
София 1113, Бул. Шипченски проход № 52, бл. 17	
тел.: 02/ 979 29 98 ; факс: 02/ 979 29 98	

2007. In 2008 he has defended his dissertation. Since 2009 he has been a Research Associate II degree, and since 2011 he has been a Chief Assistant at The Institute for Historical Studies - BAS. He is also a member of the Macedonian Scientific Institute, its scientific structures and publications.

2. According to the requirements of the Higher Education Act, the candidates have the following scientometric indicators:

GROUP A. Dissertation work for awarding educational and scientific degree "Doctor" - 50 points

Ch. Assist.Prof. Voyn Bozhinov Ph.D - "Andrey Lyapchev - politician, statesman, public figure "

Ch. Assist.Prof. Georgi Georgiev Ph.D - "The Macedonian-Edirne movement in the Kyustendil district (1895-1903)".

GROUP B. Published monograph, which is presented as a major habilitation work - 100 points:

Ch. Assist.Prof. Voyn Bozhinov Ph.D - Managing the 19 May coup d'état, May 19, 1934 - January 22, 1935. Publishing house "Arka". S., 2017, 247 pages ISBN 978-954-8356-62-6.

This is a stand-alone monograph on the nine-month rule of the military organization behind the Bulgarian coup d'état of 1934. The union between the political circle and the representatives of the Military Union is defined by the author as " of the 19th of May " as an attempt to give this term content and its further existence after the cabinet of Kimon Georgiev.

The effort to reconstruct the activities of the "Zveno" against the background of the European reality, in comparison with the "rehabilitation" in Poland, the Portuguese regime of Salazar and the dictatorship of King Alexander in Yugoslavia is logical.

The shown structure of power, a characteristic of the regime, is acceptable and has its place in the historiographical process. The discussion with the existing historiography is correct and the rejection of some existing thesis is completely acceptable. The sources are successfully included in the text.

The conclusions in the book are made on the basis of sufficient source material. The pages dedicated to the ideology of the people behind the Bulgarian coup d'état of 1934, their aspiration to renew the state and to get out of the crisis are

completely correct and embody a historiographical contribution. The lines dedicated to the introduction of a new administration and the clash of the Military Union with the monarch are of great importance.

Ch. Assist.Prof. Georgi Georgiev Ph.D - The Bulgarian-Albanian Political Relations (1908–1915), Sofia, 2019, 468 pp. ISBN 978-619-7377-06-4.

The proposed work for habilitation is the first independent study on a topic that chronologically passes through the pre-state time for the Albanians, growing into interstate relations. In essence, this is an attempt to show how the country participated in the creation of another state based on the Ottoman Empire. Also present is the development of the widely unaccepted idea among the Albanians for a geostrategic ally in the future liberation war. The different geostrategic ideas of the Albanians and the Bulgarians are analyzed. The work complements the analyzes of our historiography on the motivational basis for the establishment of the Balkan Union.

A significant part of the monograph is devoted to the attempts of the Bulgarian side to adjust the course to the Albanian factor on the basis of the Bulgarian-Albanian border "from Korçë to Šar ", which failed due to the lack of political chances and political will of the Russophile governments.

For the author, the Bulgarian-Albanian "reciprocity" was demonstrated by the delayed and belated effect of the joint uprising of the two nations against the Kingdom of Serbia in the autumn of 1913, successfully formulated as a "Bulgarian-Albanian / Albanian-Bulgarian uprising" as a region and ethnic scope. Little known moments and processes from the history of the Bulgarian international relations are highlighted, such as the negotiations with the Ottoman Empire for a common union, the role of the IMRO - Bulgarian national movement and the Albanian factor as the conceptually developed views and arguments of IMRO for humanitarian, military and expert assistance; economic and cultural infiltration; establishing political influence; strengthening the Bulgarian ethnic presence (the Bulgarian minority there) through the colonization of Bulgarians from Macedonia; construction of the Bulgarian metropolis in Albania, etc. According to the author, IMRO requires and receives from the government exclusive rights to implement the Bulgarian state policy towards the Albanian principality.

The work explains the idea of establishing a "friendly" protectorate on the minor principality. This project has been delayed and doomed to failure. The pro-

Ottoman uprising of the Muslim population in central Albania against the "Gyaur" rule of Wilhelm Vid immediately puts the fragile Bulgarian presence in the losing camp, along with the Albanian national forces. The short-lived disintegration of the Albanian state, which immediately followed the outbreak of the First World War in 1914, also meant the collapse of the unreliable foundation on which the Bulgarian national cause was built there. The interest in Albania was revived once again during the negotiations with the Central Powers to intervene in the war.

GROUP C

Indicator 4. Published monograph, which is not presented as a main habilitation thesis

Ch. Assist.Prof. Voyn Bozhinov Ph.D - 200 points

1. Republic of Macedonia in modern geopolitics. Gutenberg Publishing House. S., 2017, 314 pages ISBN 978-619-176-106-7.
2. Socialist Yugoslavia in agony 1980-1989. S., Arka Publishing House, 2019, 240 pp. ISBN 978-954-8356-67-1.

While there are two monographs in the list of publications, there are three monographs in the table. I accept the list as valid, as the same part of the monograph is applied for points and as a separate chapter of collective monographs.

The monograph is dedicated to the Republic of Macedonia and its place in the geopolitics. The author defines it as historically polemical in nature. The other is dedicated to the period before the disintegration of Yugoslavia against the background of the country's economic and political reality. An emphasis is put on the rise of the Albanian question in the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and its negative impact on the country's political development.

Indicator 5. Published book based on a defended dissertation for the award of educational and scientific degree "Doctor".

Ch. Assist.Prof. Voyn Bozhinov Ph.D - The globe does not stop spinning, even if we sleep. A story about the life of Andrey Lyapchev. S., 2005, 242 pp. ISBN 954-607-679-1. and Andrey Lyapchev. Kama Publishing House. S., 2006, 126 pp. ISBN 978-954-989-085-3. 150 points

Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. G. Georgiev - The Macedonian-Edirne Movement in the Kyustendil District (1895–1903), Sofia, 2008, 288 pp., ISBN: 978-954-8187-75-6. **75 points**

Indicator 6. Articles and reports published in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases of scientific information

Ch. Assist.Prof. Voyn Bozhinov Ph.D -30 points.

The article examines the relationship "fascism - national socialism" as a political and social experiment.

Indicator 7. Articles and reports published in non-referenced magazines with scientific review or published in edited collective volumes

Ch. Assist.Prof. Voyn Bozhinov Ph.D - 370 points.

The articles are in several groups that follow the interests of the author and correspond to the published monographs. The Balkan problems prevail - international relations and the history of Yugoslavia, Macedonia, Turkey, the period of the wars and domestic political problems. They are also published in foreign languages.

Ch. Assist.Prof. Georgi Georgiev Ph.D - 220 points.

The articles are in several groups, which also cover the published monographs and parts of such. Most of them are dedicated to certain aspects of the national liberation movement and its organizations in Macedonia at the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century. Some of them are in a foreign language. The other part of the articles is dedicated to the Albanian movement and the Bulgarians. The most important ones are also published in a foreign language.

Indicator 9. Studies published in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases of scientific information.

Ch. Assist.Prof. Georgi Georgiev Ph.D - 45 points

The study is dedicated to the Bulgarian-Albanian uprising of 1913 and the policy of Serbia on the demographic problem in the region.

Indicator 10. Studies published in non-peer-reviewed journals / scientific peer-reviewed series or published in edited collective volumes.

Ch. Assist.Prof. Voyn Bozhinov Ph.D - 15 points

The study is part of the author's research on the relationship between revolutionary organizations and the regime following the 19 May coup d'état.

Ch. Assist.Prof. Georgi Georgiev Ph.D - 60 points

He is the author of four studies. Two of them are dedicated to the Bulgarian-Albanian relations in the field of the national liberation struggles, the Albanian refugee issue and the humanitarian action to help the victims. The other two are respectively examining the Macedonian-Edirne militia, the language and way of life of the Bulgarians in Southern Macedonia.

Indicator 11. Published chapter of a collective monograph or section in a documentary edition.

Ch. Assist.Prof. Voyn Bozhinov Ph.D - 40

His participation in the collective monographs is also determined by his main scientific interests - the domestic policy and development of authoritarian and totalitarian organizations, and the fate of Macedonia.

Ch. Assist.Prof. Georgi Georgiev Ph.D - 126 points

He is the compiler of documentary collections, memoirs, historical sources and more. The independent paragraphs in the collective academic research on the history of Dupnitsa and Razlog are also his.

GROUP D

Indicator 12. Citations or reviews in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases of scientific information or in monographs and collective volumes.

Ch. Assist.Prof. Voyn Bozhinov Ph.D - 45 points

Ch. Assist.Prof. Georgi Georgiev Ph.D - 30 points

Indicator 13. Citations in monographs and collective volumes of scientific peer review.

Ch. Assist.Prof. Voyn Bozhinov Ph.D - 400

Ch. Assist.Prof. Georgi Georgiev Ph.D - 1000 points

Indicator 14. Citations or reviews in non-peer-reviewed journals with scientific review

Ch. Assist.Prof. Voyn Bozhinov Ph.D - 125 points

Ch. Assist.Prof. Georgi Georgiev Ph.D - 160 points

GROUP E

Indicator 17. Participation in a national scientific or educational project

Ch. Assist.Prof. Voyn Bozhinov Ph.D - 45 points

Indicator 18. Participation in an international scientific or educational project

Ch. Assist.Prof. Voyn Bozhinov Ph.D - 20 points

The peer-reviewed papers show that both candidates meet the required minimum scientometric requirements of the law. Moreover, Ch. Assist.Prof. Voyn Bozhinov Ph.D and Ch. Assist.Prof. Georgi Georgiev Ph.D significantly exceed the legislator's requirements. The scientometric indicators from the submitted documents of the two participants in the contest are as follows:

Ch. Assist.Prof. Voyn Bozhinov Ph.D - 1790 points

Ch. Assist.Prof. Georgi Georgiev Ph.D - 1960 points

Both have good methodological training and a professional attitude to the source material and the achievements of the academy.

Ch. Assist.Prof. Voyn Bozhinov Ph.D concentrates his research mainly on the domestic political life of the country, the history of Yugoslavia and the fate of the Republic of Northern Macedonia. The habilitation work proposed for participation in the contest meets the requirements of a serious historical study. The source material used is quite sufficient to support the author's theses and conclusions. The development after the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree of doctor is visible and reflected clearly in the scientific production. However, the analysis of the presented research shows that they do not cover the main parameters of the scientific specialty of the contest.

Ch. Assist.Prof. Georgi Georgiev Ph.D is also an established scientist who has his own place in the historiographical process, within a very clear and well-defined field of research. His scientific concentration is on the development of the national liberation movement of the Bulgarians in Macedonia, regional history and mainly the ties between Bulgarians and Albanians. Both analyzes and the involved source material are his own. The ones presented by him have their guaranteed place in the scientific space. After defending the educational and scientific degree of doctor, he has the necessary growth in scientific terms. I must emphasize that the presented habilitation work and a huge number of articles and studies are entirely devoted to the theme of the contest. In conclusion, I would like to highlight that the presented research and the research work give me reason to say that the participants in the contest are researchers who meet the requirements for the academic position of "associate professor". Each of them has the necessary scientific baggage and research profile. But given the theme of the contest: **"History of Bulgaria" (The Macedonian question in the Bulgarian-Albanian relations (1878-1944))** my proposal for the election of the academic position of "Associate Professor" is for Ch. Assist.Prof. Georgi Georgiev, Ph.D.

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