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PROMOTION REVIEW

in regards to the competition for the academic position ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR in Professional Field 2.2. History and Archeology, Research Area “History of Bulgaria (The Macedonian Question in the Bulgarian-Albanian Relations, 1878-1944)”, announced for the needs of the section “History of the Bulgarian National Question” at the Institute for Historical Studies – BAS, with the candidates Ch. Assist. Prof. Georgi Nikolov Georgiev and Ch. Assist. Prof. Voin Konstantinov Bojinov

from Assoc. Prof. PhD Petya Dimitrova, Institute for Historical Studies – BAS

In the competition announced by the Institute for Historical Studies at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences for the academic position “Associate Professor” in the research area “History of Bulgaria (The Macedonian question in the Bulgarian-Albanian relations 1878-1944)” for the needs of the section “History of the Bulgarian National Question” (*State Gazzete*, issue 110 of December 29, 2020), two candidates have applied for the position – Ch. Assist. Prof. Georgi Nikolov Georgiev from the section “History of the Bulgarian National Question” of IfHS and Ch. Assist. Prof. Voin Konstantinov Bojinov, from the section “Contemporary History and Geopolitics” at the same institute. In this case, I believe that the task of the Review Committee is, firstly, to assess the qualities of the two candidates separately, and secondly – to indicate which of them meets the requirements of the competition to a greater extent. Therefore, my further exposition will be following this logic.

Georgi Nikolov Georgiev has started working at IfHS of BAS in 2009. During the time he has been working at the Institute, G. Georgiev has participated in eight collective research projects of IfHS and other similar base organizations, some of them funded by European and national institutions. Important in assessing the scientific activity of the candidate are the two successfully completed individual projects – “Political and military relations between the Bulgarian and Albanian liberation movements in Macedonia 1912-1915” and “Bulgarian-Albanian political relations 1908-1915.”

As early as 2002, G. Georgiev became a member of the Macedonian Scientific Institute, thus declaring his long-term interest in the history of the Bulgarian National Question and in particular in the fate of Macedonia. Since 2008 he has been a member of the Scientific Council of the Macedonian Scientific Institute, and in 2020 he was elected as a member of its Management Board, and in the period 2009-2020 he was also a member (scientific secretary) of the editorial board of the journal “Macedonian Review”.

For the current competition G. Georgiev has declared as a habilitation thesis the monograph “Bulgarian-Albanian political relations (1908-1915)”, published in 2019. In addition, in the submitted documents he has indicated participation in three collective monographs, as well as the role of a compiler of three documentary collections. The list of scientific publications of the candidate includes 29 studies on the history of the Bulgarian National Question, 12 of which study directly different aspects of the Bulgarian-Albanian relations in the context of the important for the Bulgarian historiography topic – Macedonia.

The monograph “Bulgarian-Albanian Political Relations (1908–1915)” is a kind of a summary of the author's journey so far in studying the complex and ambiguous interactions between Bulgarians and Albanians in the years of the Young Turk coup (1908), which set the national movements of non-Turkish people in the Ottoman Empire in new, different from the previous conditions, until 1915 – the year in which Bulgaria entered the First World War. As a serious contribution of the author, I would point out not only the focus on such an insufficiently studied by our national historiography topic, but also the extremely vast source base that G. Georgiev uses. He managed to cover the documents of all institutions related to the formulation of ideas on the Macedonian issue – government, army, monarch, church, IMARO, and accordingly to outline their participation in the policy-making on this issue, respectively on the relations with the Albanians and the Albanian state. Not to be overlooked is the fact that his research demonstrates a good knowledge of the achievements not only of the Bulgarian, but also of the Albanian historiography, as well as of the works of authors from third countries – mainly Russian, Serbian, Greek and Hungarian. The chronological approach used has enabled the author to show the dynamics of these relationships and their development. In addition, he manages to reveal in depth both the Bulgarian and Albanian projects for the Macedonian territories with their commonalities, but also with their drastic contradictions, to analyze them in comparison to the projects of the other neighbors – Serbs, Greeks, Turks, as well as to analyze various temporary trends in relation to them – for example, the Bulgarian-Turkish rapprochement based on the common desire to revise the results of the Balkan Wars. The narrative also focuses on the policies of the Great Powers, each of which pursues its own goals, which further complicates the knot of accumulated controversies on the Macedonian and Albanian issues.

My final assessment is that the monograph covers all the requirements of a habilitation thesis.

Voin Konstantinov Bojinov started working at the Institute for Historical Studies in 2005, after defending his PhD thesis as a full-time doctoral student at Sofia University “St. Kl. Ohridski”, on the topic “Andrey Lyapchev – politician, statesman, public figure”. In his CV he has declared his participation in 4 international and national projects, implemented by various institutions.

As a habilitation thesis, V. Bojinov has submitted the monograph “The ‘May Nineteen’ Government, May 19, 1934 - January 22, 1935”, published in 2017. Among the scientific studies, which he submitted with his application, two more monographs are mentioned – “Republic of Macedonia in the Contemporary Geopolitics” (2017) and “Socialist

Yugoslavia in Agony (1980-1989)” (2019), as well as his participation in two more collective monographs – “Nationally powerful and united Bulgaria. The Formation of the Radical Right and the National Question”, co-authored with N. Poppetrov (2014) and “The Republic of Macedonia in the Contemporary Balkan Geopolitics and the Place of the Bulgarian National Interest There”, co-authored with Y. Stoyanova-Toneva (2018). Another monograph, “Socialist Yugoslavia in Decay (1989-1992)” (2021), which is absent from the list of publications, is included in the document containing the abstracts of the candidate's scientific works, as well as in the reference to his scientific contributions.

In addition to the large number of monographs, the list includes a large number of studies and articles. They are 39 in number and are dedicated to a wide range of issues in regards to the Bulgarian historical development, situated in an equally wide time span. Here we can find research that continues to consider important moments in the life and work of Andrey Lyapchev, as well as such dedicated to other individuals and organizations of the Bulgarian socio-political life of the 20th century, and concerning various moments in the domestic and foreign policy of the country. The candidate's latest publications point to a long-term interest in the contemporary history and geopolitics in the Balkans.

In general, the scientific work of V. Bojinov demonstrates his broad interests in various, not only historical but also current issues, as well as the ability to write in a journalistically manner. However, the disadvantage of the presented scientific publications in the framework of this competition is its remoteness from the stated topic. As having something to do with the current topic, I would point out the brief historiographical analysis of the Bulgarian historical literature dedicated to the Ohrid Uprising, contained within 7 pages. Therefore, I consider it inappropriate to further analyze the studies of Ch. Assist. Prof. Voin Bojinov in terms of this competition.

In view of all the above, I believe that the appropriate candidate for the academic position ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR in the announced competition in Professional Field 2.2. History and Archeology, Research Area “History of Bulgaria (The Macedonian Question in Bulgarian-Albanian Relations, 1878-1944)” is Ch. Assist. Prof. GEORGI NIKOLOV GEORGIEV. That is why I will be voting in favor of his appointment and I call on my colleagues from the esteemed Review Committee to do the same.

5.04.2021
Sofia

Signature:
/P. Dimitrova/