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ИНСТИТУТ ЗА ИСТОРИЧЕСКИ ИЗСЛЕДВАНИЯ	
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REVIEW

by Assoc. Prof. Stefan Marinov Minkov, PhD, Shumen University

Regarding the application of the following candidate for the academic position of PROFESSOR, according to the Bulgarian legislation in Area of Higher Education 2. Humanities in Professional Field 2.2. History and Archeology, History of Bulgaria (Monarchical Institution and the Third Bulgarian state). The procedure has been announced in the State Gazette No 10 on 4 February 2022.

Candidate: Assoc. Prof., Dr. Habil Petar Ivanov Stoyanovich

This procedure is for the needs of the section "New Bulgarian History" of the Institute for Historical Research at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. The scientific production of the candidate fully corresponds to the topic of the procedure; the points of the scientometric indicators, which are required by Law on Academic Staff Development in the Republic of Bulgaria and Regulations for Academic Staff Development in the Republic of Bulgaria, are covered. The candidate has submitted all the necessary documents required by law to participate in the procedure.

In view of the aim of this review, I will focus on the publications on historical topics that are presented for this procedure. And they are the following:

Three monographs:

1. Zar Ferdinand I. (geb. Prinz von Sachsen-Coburg und Gotha): Seine Herkunft, Bildung, Motivation und der Aufbau des modernen Bulgariens 1861 - 1887 - 1912. Wien, LIT Verlag: 2021. 400 Seiten. ISBN: 978-3-643-91215-2.
2. Patyat kam Sofiya. Proizvod, obrazovanie i motivatsiya na prints Ferdinand Saks-Koburgski i Got-ski za misiyata v Bulgaria. Veliko Tarnovo, Faber: 2021. 254 pp. ISBN 978-619-00-1341-9
3. Mezhdutsarstvieto, krizata i bitkata za bulgarskiya tron (1886-1887): solisti i statisti - ot Batenberg do Koburg - s pogled varhu mediynoto im otrazyavane. S., Zahari Stoyanov: 2017. 224 pp. ISBN: 978-954-09-1161-8

Thirteen studies and articles, two textbooks and a number of popular science publications are submitted for the procedure; the list includes references to publications in which P. Stoyanovich is a reviewer, compiler, scientific editor and translator.

According to the list of publications, the topics studied by P. Stoyanovich can be grouped into several research fields: the biography of Prince/ Tsar Ferdinand, the monarchical institution and its place in the history of Bulgaria after 1878, the modernization of the Kingdom in the period from the Liberation to the wars (1912-1918), the "Bulgarian Crisis" (1886 - 1887), some aspects of the history of Austria-Hungary and the First World War. If we take into account the other publications of the candidate, we can unconditionally say that he is known as a leading researcher of the period 1878 - 1918, tracking the processes and trends of Europeanization and modernization of the restored Bulgarian state and the place of the monarchical institution in them.

The monograph *Zar Ferdinand I. (Geb. Prinz von Sachsen-Coburg und Gotha): Seine Herkunft, Bildung, Motivation und der Aufbau des modernen Bulgariens 1861 - 1887 - 1912*. Wien, LIT Verlag: 2021. [= *Tsar Ferdinand I (born as Prince Saxe-Coburg and Gothic): his origins, education, motivation and the development of modern Bulgaria 1861 - 1887 - 1912*. Vienna, publishing house LIT: 2021, is representative of the research interests of the candidate. It is structured in a preface, seven chapters and an afterword, and the structure follows the logical connection of the monarch's life path and the reforms that have been implemented in Bulgaria. The title of the first chapter: "Origin, Education and Motivation" speaks about its content, but I must note that the author goes deep into the context of aristocratic families in Europe, a feature that is observed in other texts of P. Stoyanovich'. In the following chapters the story is structured chronologically and presents the modernization processes in some key socio-political areas in Bulgaria – the army and officers, architecture and construction, transport and communications (a topic profoundly studied in one of the previous monographs of the candidate – the one dedicated to Ivan Stoyanovich - Adzheleto), education, science and arts.

The second monograph submitted for the procedure: *Patyat kam Sofiya. Proizhod, obrazovanie i motivatsiya na prints Ferdinand Saks-Koburgski i Got-ski za misiyata v Bulgaria*. [The Road to Sofia. Origin, education and motivation of Prince Ferdinand Saxe-Coburg and Gothic for the mission in Bulgaria. Veliko Tarnovo, Faber: 2021] chronologically precedes the period studied in the above-reviewed monographic work. To some extent, this study expands and complements the information from the first chapter of the previous monograph. We must pay tribute to the author and admit that in historiography there is not another completely documented and scientifically sound research on the early years of the future Bulgarian monarch; in addition – it has polygraphic design and is richly accompanied by photographs and illustrations. To certain extent, the study is a kind of history of some of the great European aristocratic families - Kochary, Orleans, Bourbon, Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, relatives of Ferdinand.

The third monograph: *Mezhdutsarstvieto, krizata i bitkata za bulgarskiya tron (1886-1887): solisti i statisti - ot Batenberg do Koburg - s pogled varhu mediynoto im*

otrazyavane. S., Zahari Stoyanov: 2017. 224 pp. ISBN: 978-954-09-1161-8 [The Interregnum, the Crisis and the Battle for the Bulgarian Throne (1886-1887): soloists and supernumeraries - from Battenberg to Coburg - with a view to their media coverage. S., Zahari Stoyanov: 2017], explores one of the key periods in the new Bulgarian history, that of the "Bulgarian crisis", which outlines the directions of development of the state in the following decades. Structurally, the book contains an introduction, nine chapters and an epilogue, and the story begins with the last days of Prince Alexander's reign. A kind of emphasis should be placed on the clash with Russia and on Russian policy towards the young Bulgarian principality. The author analyzes the results of Kaulbars' mission; presents in detail the candidates for the Bulgarian throne, and one of the great merits of the monograph is in this direction - the detailed study of the motives and arguments "for" and "against" each candidate, especially interesting is the image of Prince Nikolai Mingreli. An important emphasis in the monograph is the analysis (part of author's contribution) of the role of the Bulgarian delegation in Europe, sent at the end of 1886.

Most of the studies and articles submitted for reviewing are integrated into the text of one of the monographs (articles № 1, partly 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13). Therefore, I will only comment on publications 8 and 9, namely: *Bulgarskata delegatsiya na pregovorite v Brest-Litovsk: sastav, strategiya, natsionalni spetsifiki i Torpedonosnata imperiya* [*The Bulgarian delegation to the negotiations in Brest-Litovsk: composition, strategy, national specifics and the Torpedo Empire*]. The first publication explores a current problem that has often been the focus of research interests recently. The author emphasizes the growing self-confidence of the Bulgarian representatives in Brest-Litovsk, who are participating in the negotiations on an equal footing with their powerful allies and firmly defend the national interests. The second publication presents an interesting issue for me about the Austro-Hungarian navy and the naval base in Fiume, about the inventions that give impetus to naval art.

The list of the contributions that the candidate Petar Stoyanovich submitted can be defined as accurate. I will not dwell on it in detail, but will point out three more general merits of the candidate's scientific production:

1. The change of the overall assessment of the role of Prince/ Tsar Ferdinand in Bulgarian history with emphasis on his participation in modernization processes, which aims to change the inherited one-sided description and evaluation of the Bulgarian monarch before 1989;
2. The new approach for Bulgaria in the study of the history of the monarchical institution, which also emphasizes the family ties, aristocratic education and dynastic ties;
3. The use of a "lighter style" of writing, sometimes disregarding strict academic canons but always strictly following the facts and scientific standards. "Lighter style" does not lighten the content, but on the contrary, makes it more

accessible to the general public and, as a consequence, expands the popularity of serious history.

And at the end of the review I will make a recommendation: it would be interesting to compare Ferdinand not only with Prince Alexander, but also with other Balkan monarchs, who are also representatives of German dynasties.

In conclusion, the scientific production of the candidate Petar Stoyanovich for the academic position *Professor*, is sufficient both in quantity (as evidenced by the table of scientometric indicators) and in quality (this review testifies to this). Therefore, I will vote in favor of giving the scientific position of *Professor* to Assoc. prof. Dr. Habil Petar Ivanov Stoyanovich in the field of higher education 2. Humanities, professional field 2.2. History and Archeology, History of Bulgaria (Monarchical Institution and the Third Bulgarian State) for the needs of the section "New Bulgarian History" at the Institute for Historical Research of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

26 May 2022

(Assoc. Prof. Stefan Minkov, PhD)