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## REVIEW

on the scientific production and other scientific activities of Assoc. Prof. Doctor of Science Teodorichka Ilieva Gotovska-Hentse, participant in the competition for the academic post of "Professor" in scientific specialty 2.2. History and Archaeology, specialty "New and Contemporary World History" (History of Slavic Peoples, XIX - XX centuries), for the needs of the section "History of the World and International Relations in New and Contemporary Times", announced by the Institute for Historical Research - BAS and published in the State Gazette, # 10 of 4 February 2022.

by Prof. Iskra Baeva PhD, Lecturer in Contemporary History at the Faculty of History, Sofia University „Kliment Ohridski"

The candidate for the academic post "Professor" Assoc. Prof. D. Sc.. Theodorichka Gotovska-Hentse presents herself in the competition with an impressive research biography, numerous specializations, participation in scientific projects and a long list of scientific publications.

### 1. Personal data of the contest participant

Teodorichka Gotovska was born on May 1, 1958. She graduated in History and Ethnology at Sofia University „Kliment Ohridski" in 1982. She then continued her preoccupation with history as a postgraduate student (now PhD student) in Prague, Czechoslovakia, at the Faculty of Philosophy of Charles University. After she defended her Thesis on "Czechoslovakia and the Small Entente 1920-1925" in 1989, she started working as a researcher at the Faculty of History of the Sofia University „Kliment Ohridski". She has started her studies in the Institute of History at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. Since 1990 she has been a research assistant at the Institute, which was the beginning of her academic career. She has progressed through all the scientific rungs, and in 2002 was elected Senior Research Fellow, a academic post which in 2013 was equated to Associate Professor. In 2020, she defended a new Thesis on "Bulgarians in Czech-Russian Literary Exchange

(1830s-1860s)", which resulted in her being awarded the highest scientific degree of Doctor of Science.

## **2. Research activities and publications**

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sc. Theodorichka Gotovska-Hentse applied in this competition for "professor" for the needs of the section "History of the World and International Relations in New and Recent Times" of the Institute for Historical Studies, BAS, with all her scientific production developed and published after her habilitation in 2002.

Her studies are numerous and versatile, as they covers a very large chronological span of history - more than two centuries, as well as many different issues related to political development, the establishment of modern education and science, culture and the evolution of different ideologies. I will begin the presentation of her publications with the general research interests of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sc. T. Gotovska-Hentse. They can be formulated as follows: the history of Central Europe in the 19th-20th centuries; the relations between Bulgarians and Czechs and between their countries in the context of international relations, Bulgarian-Czech cultural and political relations; national movements in Central Europe and the Balkans; the history of Slavic studies.

The broad interests of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sc. T. Gotovská-Hentse have found realization in her numerous publications, which from the beginning of her scientific career stretched from the history of the Czech lands in the nineteenth century to the collapse of Czechoslovakia and the establishment of the two states of the Czech Republic and Slovakia on 1 January 1993. The first was devoted to the establishment of the Czechoslovak Republic on the ruins of the Habsburg Empire, and the second – to the first period of the history of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic at the end of the Second World War until the tragic end of "Prague Spring" of 1968, not only for Czechoslovakia but also for the entire Eastern Bloc.

The publications of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sc. Teodoricka Gotovska-Hentse after her habilitation in 2002 traced her scientific path up to the present competition, so through their evaluation I can judge her qualities for the highest academic post. During these years, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sc. Gotovska-Hentse has published 44 articles and studies in Bulgaria, 12 abroad, as well as two monographs. Although she has not mentioned them in this competition, it seems to me that they should be presented because they show the maturity of a historian and whether

he is ready to receive the academic post of 'professor'. I will therefore start with the main themes of these publications of hers.

First of all, I would put the lasting interest of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sc. T. Gotovska-Hentse's interest in geopolitics, albeit viewed from a different historical distance. The result of her understanding of the fate of small European states facing major geopolitical challenges were her publications related to the history of the twentieth century, where my research interests also lie. In these publications she has analysed the way in which the Czechoslovak Republic came into being at the collapse of Austria-Hungary at the end of the First World War, the dramatic fate of Czechoslovakia in the interwar decade and its tragic end on the eve of the Second World War, and the socialist period of Czechoslovak history.

Over time, however, as she delved deeper into particular issues, and access to new documents, her interest turned back in time, with her publications increasingly focusing on the processes of the nineteenth century, and those that created coherence between some Eastern European nations - it was about the Slavic idea, of which the Czech Slavists were the main bearers: scientists, writers, cultural figures, political activists. At the same time, as is evident from her publications of recent years, her research led her to the Russian Slavists and their connection with Czech and Bulgarian circles. More generally, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sc. Gotovská-Hentse has expanded her research field both in time and space. Her published monograph, based on her doctoral thesis, "The Cyrillic Code. Slavistics and the Rediscovery of the Bulgarians (until 1848)" (2018).

Especially for this competition Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sc. T. Gotovska-Hentse has submitted eight publications in which she has continued and expanded the traditional direction of her research. They deal with the links between the individuals, peoples and countries of Eastern, Central and South-Eastern Europe. In these publications, the author has demonstrated her qualities as a historian by tracing the lives and works of famous Enlightenment humanists and their Slavic studies related to the Bulgarians from the first half of the nineteenth to the first decades of twentieth century. Among them is the analysis of the Slavic connections of the Czech scholar of Slovak origin Pavel Josef Šafárik, which lasted from the 1830s to the 1860s, the story of how Konstantin Ireček's interest in the Bulgarians was born, an interest that brought him to Bulgaria as Minister of Education, the tracing of the attitude of the Mladočeši as a parliamentary force in Austria-Hungary to the Bulgarian cause during the Balkan War (the first one) in the early twentieth century, the study of Vladimir Sis's activities in Bulgaria

in support of the Czech cause during the wars of the early twentieth century. The expanding interest of Prof. Assoc. Dr. Sc. Gotovska-Hentse from Central to Eastern Europe (identified in this period in the Russian Empire) has found confirmation in her research dedicated to the Bulgarian Marin Drinov, who received a professional-historical education at Moscow University, as well as in his connections with the group of the Mladočeši, in the introduction to scientific exchange of the activities of the Russian scholar Peter Köppen, as well as the tracing of Bulgarian-Czech cultural contacts, often with the mediation of the Russian Empire. In other words, she has gradually deepened her historical pursuits and shaped herself as a mature professional historian.

The most important monograph for the present competition is the one prepared in time after she was awarded the academic degree of Doctor of Sciences in 2020. It is the book "Sounáležností a soudržností k vzájemnému pozná(vá)ní" (Belonging and Coherence in Mutual Knowledge) published in 2021 by the Slavic Institute in Prague. It is a collective work of three historians: two Bulgarians (T. Gotovská-Hentse and Lyubomila Solenkova) and one Czech (Marcel Cerny). The part by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sc. T. T. Gotovská-Hentse of the collective monograph is entitled "Czech-Bulgarian Cooperation in Education and Politics". This part exceeds 100 pages, occupies the pages from 424 to 548, has a separate bibliography, which means that the text fully meets the requirements for a stand-alone monograph.

This latest monograph by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sc. Teodoricka Gotovska-Hentse is devoted entirely to the Renaissance, in particular to the development of education in the Bulgarian lands under Ottoman rule, refracted through the help the Bulgarians received from the Czech and Russian Slavists. Thanks to her preoccupation with the history of Central Europe and Russia, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sc. Gotovská-Hentse was able to place the Bulgarian Revival in the context of the evolution of three empires - the Ottoman (Bulgarian lands), the Habsburg (Czech lands) and the Russian, the only one in which the Slavic idea was part of the state ideology. Her texts on specific issues related to the Renaissance also help to see the great differences in the functioning of these great continental empires, which embodied three different religious beliefs: Islam, Catholicism and Orthodoxy.

In the monograph in a comparative perspective are presented the problems and achievements of education in Bulgarian and Czech lands, the work of such outstanding personalities of the era as Vasil Aprilov, Hr. G. Danov, Konstantin Ireček, as well as events important for the history of Slavic studies such as the Slavic Congress in Prague in early June

1848, the "Spring of Nations" of 1848-1849, The monograph is accompanied by the speech of Pavel Šafárik at the Slavic Congress, as well as a text devoted to the resistance mission of Vladimir Cis in Bulgaria during the First World War. The monograph is definitely a contribution to Bulgarian historiography.

My overall impression of the research and publications of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sc. Teodoricka Gotovska-Hentse is entirely positive as they are written in a modern, imaginative and readable language and style.

### **3. Other activities**

In her scientific career Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sc. T. Gotovska-Henze has undergone various specializations and trainings in Germany, Czech Republic, Italy, which have had a considerable influence on the expanding horizons of her knowledge and interests.

Although she has dedicated herself to an academic career at the Institute of Historical Research at BAS, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sc. Gotovska-Henze has not been content with individual scholarly pursuits, but has managed to use every opportunity to share her knowledge with a wider audience. She has done it since 1995 as a guest lecturer at the University of Utah, USA, in 2001 at the University of Veliko Tarnovo `St. St. Cyril and Metodius`, in 2006 and 2012 at the University of Veliko Tarnovo `St. st. Cyril and Methodius`, in 2013, 2014 and 2016 at the PhD Seminar at the Institute of Historical Research, and in 2015 at Charles University, Czech Republic.

In addition, she was a spokesperson and author for the Bulgarian version of Radio Prague and translated from Slovak and Czech for the Peace Corps in Bulgaria.

Among her other activities she is a member of the Editorial Board of the „Bulgarian Historical Review” magazine and of the Scientific Council of the Bulgarian Historical Institute.

### **4. Participation in research projects**

In the course of his scientific career Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sc. T. Gotovska-Hentse has participated as a leader or as a member of scientific teams that have carried out national and international scientific projects. The Bulgarian scientific research projects in which she has participated have a variety of themes.

The topics of the international scientific projects in which Assoc. Prof. Gotovska-Hentse also demonstrate the usefulness of the research projects, as they have given her the opportunity to develop her research in a particular direction: the development of Slavic Studies in the 19th century. Here are the issues of the international projects: the Czech project "Czechs Women for Bulgaria and the Bulgarians in the 19th and 20th centuries" (2010-2011); the Bulgarian-Slovak project "Slavic Studies and the Bulgarians" in two parts (2011-2016); the Bulgarian-Slovak project "Modernization Processes in Central Europe and Southeastern Europe in the 19th- 21st centuries" (2010-2011); the Bulgarian-Slovak project "Slavic Studies and the Bulgarians" in two parts (2011-2016)., (2012-2014); Bulgarian-Slovak "Modernization Projects in Central Europe and Southeast Europe: Theories, Social Outcomes, International Context" (2015-2017); Bulgarian-Hungarian "Connected Histories" (2016-2018); Bulgarian-Czech "Bulgarians and Czechs in European Ideological Influences in the 19th-20th centuries" (2017-2019); Bulgarian-Hungarian "Peripheries of Empires and Nation-States in Central and Southeastern Europe 17th-20th centuries: power, institutions, society, adaptation" (2019-2021).

The participation of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sc. T. Gotovska-Hentse in numerous national and international scientific projects shows her ability to work in Bulgarian and international teams, as well as to realize the achieved scientific product in collective and individual publications.

## **5. Evaluation of the scientific indicators of Assoc. Prof. Dr Sc. Theodorichka Gotovska-Hentse**

The scientific production of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sc. Theodorichka Gotovska-Hentse meets the requirements of NACID, as her activity is evaluated at 932, 5 points or almost double the requirements.

The numerous and diverse activities of Assoc. Prof. Gotovska-Hentse, as well as the citations of her research (31 citations are listed) speak clearly enough about her scientific recognition among the Bulgarian and international scientific community.

## **6. Conclusion**

The review of the extensive scientific and research activity of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sc. Theodoricka Gotovska-Hentse, her in-depth dealings with the history of the widely

considered Eastern Europe in a remarkably long chronological period and her various other activities, as well as my personal scientific contacts with her give me full grounds to recommend Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sc. Theodoricka Gotovska-Hentse to be elected to the academic post of "Professor" in the professional field 2. 2. History and Archaeology, scientific specialty "New and Contemporary World History" (History of Slavic Peoples, 19th-20th centuries), for the needs of the section "History of the World and International Relations in New and Recent Times" of the Institute for Historical Research - BAS.

May 17, 2022

Reviewer: prof. Iskra Baeva PhD