

БЪЛГАРСКА АКАДЕМИЯ НА НАУКИТЕ ИНСТИТУТ ЗА ИСТОРИЧЕСКИ ИЗСЛЕДВАНИЯ	
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REVIEW

by Assoc. Prof. Rumen V. Karaganev, DSc

Regarding the procedure for the academic position of "Associate Professor",
announced in the *State Gazette* no. 95 of 29 November 2022 from the Institute
for Historical Studies at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences,

In Professional Field 2.2. *History and Archaeology*, Scientific Specialty *History
of Bulgaria* (The Thracian Question after 1878),

For the needs of the "History of the Bulgarian National Question" section

The national historiography has a number of studies that have explored the poignant traces left by the Bulgarian communities outside the country's geographical boundaries in neighboring or more distant locations, in various chronological periods. Studies on the Bulgarians in Northern Dobrudzha are well known, and for a later period – for the southern part of the region; numerous are the writings on the Bulgarians in Macedonia, more rare are those on Adrianople Thrace. However, what Dr. Vanya Stoyanova contributes to the research direction in question is that she reveals, complements, reconsiders, and according to the documentary evidence, arranges the puzzle of the largely neglected, extremely complicated to trace and contradictory in its historical metamorphoses "object" of research and compiles a voluminous picture on the subject.

We are talking about the Bulgarian community in the eastern part of the Balkan Peninsula, originally subjected to excessive hardships, whether it had been exposed over the years to the misdeeds of the dying vital convulsions of imperial Turkey or to the not too dissimilar attitude of Ataturk's New Turkey, but with its invariably declared flickering presence along the azimuths there. Along with the clash with the changing political attitudes in the country it lived in, this same community was also dependent on the hesitant, timid, at times puzzling policies of the country to whose roots it belonged. The time frame chosen (from 1913 to 1945), with the purposeful and scrupulous study of the existence of the Bulgarians according to the location, characteristics and variability in the centers of their residence (initially Adrianople, Lozengrad, Karagac and other surroundings, later Constantinople), against the background of the uneven pulsations in the internal, international and bilateral relations between Turkey and Bulgaria, is undoubtedly professionally relevant to requirements of a very high degree. The applicant in the procedure is extremely punctual in studying the diversity of the contained revelations, dependencies and

data regarding numbers, status, occupations, religious, educational, social affairs and other topics, set in the context of the dynamics of the mentioned political realities, with the usual frequent encounters with the scarcity of documentary evidence. It should immediately be noted that the author of the work has managed to reach them, to juxtapose them, to accompany them with a carefully thought-out commentary, and to situate them in their designated places.

The habilitation thesis is a voluminous, multi-layered and insightful study, revealing the wide palette of dramatic events that befell the Bulgarians in Turkey for the chosen and logically fitting period. The topic essentially covers the picture of the ethno-demographic processes characteristic for the Bulgarian community in view of their decreasing representativeness. The leading functional areas are traced in the direction of: phases of coercive physical impact/elimination with numerical illustration; ecclesiastical institutions, status, position, centers, properties; school and educational affairs, scope, charity, etc.

As for the other aspects examined in Dr. Stoyanova's study, they form a harmonious part of its overall rich coloring. The strong presence in the text of the international legal acts valid for the period, either of bilateral Bulgaria/Turkey orientation or with a broader horizon, should certainly be noted. We are talking about analyses of the treaties of Constantinople 1913; the 1914 Treaty of Union and Friendship between Bulgaria and the Ottoman Empire; the 1919 Treaty of Neuilly; the 1920 Treaty of Sevres; the 1922/1923 Treaty of Lausanne, as well as the particularly significant Treaty of Angora, with the preceding steps in its formulation and especially the detailed commentary on the clauses relating to the status of Bulgarians in the neighboring republic.

The distinguished high qualities of the habilitation thesis "The Bulgarians in Turkey 1913-1945", supplemented by the attached publications on the topic of the procedure, with full justification allow me to address the honorable members of the Scientific Jury to vote for the award to Asst. Prof. Dr. Vanya Stoyanova of the academic position of Associate Professor in Professional Field 2.2. *History and Archaeology*, Scientific Specialty *History of Bulgaria* (The Thracian Question after 1878), for the needs of the "History of the Bulgarian National Question" section.

March, 09, 2023

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