

БЪЛГАРСКА АКАДЕМИЯ НА НАУКИТЕ	
ИНСТИТУТ ЗА ИСТОРИЧЕСКИ ИЗСЛЕДВАНИЯ	
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тел.: 02/ 979 29 98 ; факс: 02/ 870 21 91	

## OPINION

by Prof. Dr.Sc. Veselin Kostov Yanchev, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" for the scientific works submitted in the competition for the academic position "Associate Professor", Department of Higher Education 1. Humanities; Professional direction 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, Institute for Historical Studies, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, announced in the "State Gazette" no. 95 of 29. 11. 2022

For participation in the announced competition, documents were submitted only by chief assistant Vanya Petrova Stoyanova, PhD. Submitted for the competition are: one monograph "Bulgarians in Turkey (1913-1945)". Sofia, 2022, 4 studies and 43 articles and reports. This scientific production is 4.4 times higher than the required minimum points according the general indicators for the academic position "associate professor"; the points from the publications other than the habilitation thesis are 2.6 times higher than required and the citations - 9 times higher.

V. Stoyanova's professional interests are in a wide chronological range - from the Liberation to the times of socialism and post-socialism and are thematically diverse. She studies many topics - the birth of the women's social democratic movement, the relations between the Bulgarian Orthodox Church and the executive power, the Bulgarian historical feature and documentary cinema representing the socialist era. However, her many years of research are focused on the field of the national question in the modern Bulgarian history and specifically on its "Thracian" dimension. It is noteworthy that the Thracian question was studied from its inception in the wake of the Berlin Congress to the Paris Peace Conference after the end of the Second World War. The problem itself has been

examined practically in its entirety and in all its aspects - territorial, internationally legal, political, ethno-demographic, ecclesiastical, educational, cultural. As related fields of research, one can also mention the study of the history and activity of the Thracian movement, the Thracian organization and the Thracian Scientific Institute, as well as the biographical sketches of their prominent representatives - Captain Petko voivoda, Anastas Razboinikov, Prof. L. Miletich. Special attention is paid to the role and place of the USA in solving the Bulgarian national-territorial problems. In addition to Bulgarian, Vanya Stoyanova publishes in English and Russian, which makes her research accessible to the scientific community abroad.

Over the years, Dr. Vanya Stoyanova's research focus methodically and systematically is shifted increasingly to the "periphery" of the Thracian question - Eastern Thrace. In a series of articles and studies, she builds the individual elements that form the basis of her habilitation work - the monograph "Bulgarians in Turkey (1913-1945)".

Without exaggeration it can be argued that the mentioned work is a model of scientific integrity and professional responsibility. Built on practically all available documentary, periodicals and historiographical material, it presents for the first time a problem that remained outside the attention of the Bulgarian historiography - the fate of the small Bulgarian population that remained under Turkish rule after the end of the Second Balkan War. Examining the decline of the Bulgarian presence in Eastern Thrace, the author offers a balanced, devoid of patriotic exaltation, thoughtful and objective reading of what was happening. Several lines have been drawn and followed at the same time - the demographic and professional composition of the Bulgarian community, its public life, educational and religious institutions and their difficult functioning and harmonization.

In parallel, presented is the policy of Ottoman and Republican Turkey and that of the brief Greek rule in Eastern Thrace in 1920-1922 with regard to the Bulgarian minority. The policy of the Bulgarian state and Church towards the compatriots in Turkey is followed as a background throughout the study. The author examines what is possible and what is not possible and what the state and the Church can or cannot do to protect the Bulgarian minority. A justification is given of the policy followed by them of waiting and postponing the question of the status of the Bulgarian church institution in Constantinople and its property. Impressive is the in-depth knowledge of Dr. Stoyanova of the political and economic processes and trends in the Turkish state, of the Bulgarian foreign policy and the church issue.

The habilitation work is structured in a balanced and logical way and demonstrates a high scientific, stylistic and linguistic quality.

The demonstrated research qualities and abilities by Dr. Vanya Stoyanova, the original and contributing nature of her research, the categorical absence of elements of plagiarism, make me convinced to vote for her to be awarded the academic position of "associate professor".

Sofia, March 16, 2023

**Prof. Dr.Sc. Veselin Yanchev**