

БЪЛГАРСКА АКАДЕМИЯ НА НАУКИТЕ ИНСТИТУТ ЗА ИСТОРИЧЕСКИ ИЗСЛЕДВАНИЯ	
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REVIEW

of Prof. Ludmil Yordanov Spasov, MD,

member of the Scientific Jury in a competition announced by the Institute for
Historical Studies at the BAS - Sofia,

for occupying the academic position "associate professor"

in professional direction 2.2 History and Archaeology, scientific specialty "New
and latest general history" (Ukrainians and Ukraine in the history of Europe) for the
needs of the Section "History of the world and international relations in new and
latest times"

Inna Viktorova Manasieva is the only participant in the announced competition for
"docent". She comes from the position of "doctor" in history, with a scientific
output amounting to 2 monographs and 24 studies and articles, parts of which are in
Ukrainian, Russian, Polish and German.

The monograph "The Ukrainian Question in Bulgaria during the First World War"
was presented as a habilitation thesis, Ed. BAS, 2023, 204 p. In the preface of the
book, the historiographical situation on the subject is thoroughly analyzed. The
source material put into scientific use is also commented on precisely - Bulgarian
and Ukrainian archives, printed publications, memories, diaries, etc. The task of the
research is well formulated.

Manasieva successfully reflects the role of M. Dragomanov as an ideologue of
federalism in the Ukrainian national movement. "From Dragomanov's point of
view - she writes - federalism is not a rejection of national independence, but a

rational form for its realization." The book traces the emergence and activity of Ukrainian parties in Austria-Hungary and Russia in detail. The conclusions that in the Russian Empire federalism is being imposed as the main trend in the Ukrainian movement and that the demands for autonomy and independent Ukraine have not found wide support are well argued.

The author provides valuable information about Mihailo Hrushevsky, professor since 1904 at Lviv University and about the Austro-Hungarian Minister of Education von Gauch. It is pointed out that at the University of Lviv, on the initiative of von Gauch, a Department of World History was opened with teaching in the Ukrainian language, with the task of "creating a new concept" of Ukrainian history, as opposed to the Russian one. The work convincingly shows why Hrushevsky and not Dragomanov was preferred as the head of the department. Special attention is paid to the ten-volume history of Ukraine and the name "Ukrainian Piedmont" given by Hrushevsky to Eastern Galicia.

The thesis that on the eve of the First World War the "laboratory" for formulating different ideas and concepts regarding the resolution of the Ukrainian question was Lviv, and not Kiev, which is located within Russia, is well-founded. It is emphasized that in 1914 the propagation of the Ukrainian idea in the Russian Empire was considered "separatism" and that for the rulers in Petrograd the Ukrainian question existed in its "national-cultural aspect, not as a political question".

Undisputed research success are the pages devoted to Ukraine at the end of the First World War. A wide range of problems have already been commented on: the abdication of the Russian Emperor Nicholas II from the throne; the creation of Poland; the activation of the leaders of the Ukrainian movement; the proclamation

of the Ukrainian Central Rada (March 3, 1917); the election of Hrushevsky as its leader; the collapse of the Russian Empire.

The book examines in detail the ultimatum of Lenin and Trotsky, with which the Ukrainian Rada was threatened with war; the peace signed on February 9, 1918 in Brest-Litovsk between the Ukrainian Central Council and the Central Powers (Germany, Austria-Hungary, the Ottoman Empire and Bulgaria); the rule of Hetman Skoropatsky, supported by the German and Austrian troops located on Ukrainian territory. The issues related to the annulment of the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk by Soviet Russia on December 24, 1918, Galician separatism, the entry of Polish troops from the West into Ukraine and Denikin's South Russian Army from the South, and the creation of the West Ukrainian Republic are well illuminated. At a high professional level, the geopolitical goals of Austria-Hungary and the Second German Reich were discussed. It is argued that they amount to the exhaustion and dismemberment of Russia.

The work traces the activities of the Union for the Liberation of Ukraine in Bulgaria in detail. Little-known facts about Taras Shevchenko, Gogol, Lesa Ukrainka, niece of Drahomanov, about Lydia, daughter of Drahomanov, wife of Prof. Ivan Shishmanov, are presented. It is indicated that a part of Ivan Franko's doctoral dissertation was printed in the Collection of People's Thoughts, a publication of the BAS. The participation of Ukrainians and Poles in the Second Slavic Council in Sofia (1910) was not overlooked.

The part of the study dedicated to the publicism of the Union for the Liberation of Ukraine is of a marked contribution. The anti-Russian theses of Tsegelsky, a Ukrainian from Galicia, a deputy in the Austro-Hungarian parliament, were examined, according to whom Russia was liberating the Balkan peoples in order to

use them against Germany and Austria-Hungary and conquer Constantinople and the Straits. The activities of O. Shulgin, as a representative of Ukraine in Sofia, and of Prof. Ivan Shishmanov, as a plenipotentiary minister in Kiev (1918–1919), are traced in detail.

In the richly documented work of Manasieva, some weaknesses are also noticeable. First, unnecessary repetitions have been admitted, though not many. Second, the statement of the Russian historian Mukhina, who, referring to Tsegelski and Hrushevsky, states that during the annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Austro-Hungarian heir to the throne Franz Ferdinand was considering how to conquer Ukrainian territory next to the Dnieper River (p. 45).

In 1908, Franz Ferdinand wondered why Austria-Hungary was breaking its "conservative cooperation" with Russia over a backward Balkan province and declared Foreign Minister Alois Ehrenthal his blood enemy. He is against the Mitteleuropa project - Central Europe dominated by Germany. According to him, "the war between Austria-Hungary and Russia will end with the fall of the Romanovs or the fall of the Habsburgs - maybe both."

The indicated weaknesses do not diminish the merits of the habilitation work. It is impressive in conception and implementation, and is without a doubt the most valuable study in Bulgarian historiography on the subject of Ukraine. In 2021, Inna Manasieva published, in co-authorship with I. Matyash and I. Terchina, the book "Ukrainian-Bulgarian relations: official and cultural diplomacy (1918-1944)".

The presented studies and articles also deserve attention. They are devoted to significant problems and are published in prestigious scientific publications. I believe that a significant part of them, such as "Bulgarian-Soviet relations at the

end of 1917-1918 in the context of the "Ukrainian question"; "The image of Serbia in the anti-Russian propaganda of the Union for the Liberation of Ukraine in Bulgaria at the beginning of the First World War"; "The influence of Hegel's theory of "historical" and "unhistorical" peoples on the Ukrainian national movement at the end of the 19th and 20th centuries"; "The Ukrainian People's Republic and Bulgaria (Diplomatic Aspects) 1918–1920." etc., are research hits. -Manasieva participated in national and international conferences. Her works have been cited in Bulgaria, Ukraine, etc.

With full conviction, I recommend to the Honorable Jury to award Dr. Inna Viktorova Manasieva the academic position of "associate professor" in professional direction 2.2 History and Archeology, scientific specialty "New and Recent General History" (Ukrainians and Ukraine in the History of Europe).

05.11.2023

Sofia

Reviewer:.....

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