

БЪЛГАРСКА АКАДЕМИЯ НА НАУКИТЕ ИНСТИТУТ ЗА ИСТОРИЧЕСКИ ИЗСЛЕДВАНИЯ	
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REPORT

for the habilitation thesis of **Inna Vasileva Manasieva**, proposed for the award of the educational and scientific degree "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 2. Humanities, professional direction 2.2. History and archaeology, scientific specialty "New and Contemporary General History" (Ukrainians and Ukraine in the history of Europe) for the needs of the "History of the World and International Relations in new and Contemporary History" section of the Institute of Historical Studies, announced in the State Gazette no. 55 of 27 June

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

1. Information about the doctoral student

Senior Assistant Professor Inna Viktorova Manasieva, PhD, was born on February 1, 1977 in the city of Artsyz, Odesa Region, Ukraine (then in the Soviet Union). After arriving in Bulgaria, she graduated in 1999 majoring in "History" with a master's degree from the Faculty of Bulgarian Philology, History and Theology of the Bishop Konstantin Preslavski University of Shumen.

In 2000, Inna Manasieva was enrolled as a full-time doctoral student at the Institute of History. During the next three years, she prepared her doctoral dissertation on the topic "The Ukrainian People's Republic and Bulgaria, 1918 - 1920", and in 2004 she defended it, thanks to which she received the educational and scientific degree "doctor" (PhD).

In 2005, Inna Manasieva was appointed to the academic position of "assistant" in the "History of the World and International Relations in New and Contemporary History" section at the Institute of Historical Studies at the BAS, and since 2010 she has been the Senior Assistant Professor in the same section. After an 18-year internship at the Institute, Inna Manasieva applied for the academic position of "Associate Professor" with a habilitation thesis "The Ukrainian question in Bulgaria during the First World War" and with a large number of publications with different topics, but centered around her already established research field.

2. A review of the habilitation thesis

The habilitation thesis of Inna Manasieva "The Ukrainian question in Bulgaria during the First World War" was published in the current year 2023 in the academic publishing house "Prof. Marin Drinov". Formally, the book is dedicated to a problem related to the efforts to confirm the idea of Ukrainian statehood in the years of the First World War, and in particular in Bulgaria. It is about the propaganda carried out by the Union for the Liberation of Ukraine with the aim of convincing the countries of the Central Powers of the necessity and benefit of creating a Ukrainian state on the territories of the Russian Empire inhabited by Ukrainians. I have emphasized that this is the formal topic of the study, since in fact the content shows a much wider range of issues, chronological and geographical scope than stated in the title.

Inna Manasieva's monograph is in the volume of 204 printed pages (but significantly more typewritten) and was written on the basis of a serious range of archival documents, published sources and historiography. The archival documents are from three Bulgarian and one Ukrainian archives, to which must be added nine collections of published documents. An important source on the subject are the currents of 15 Bulgarian and Ukrainian periodicals. And the memories, the various testimonies and the historiographical positions, presenting a variety of authors, problems and positions related to the subject of the habilitation, are 163. The book is equipped with a name and geographical index, which is extremely useful for readers, especially when it comes to work, presenting a problem from general history that is more unfamiliar to Bulgarians.

The achievement of Inna Manasieva in her habilitation in terms of the analysis of the birth and development of the Ukrainian national idea, of the long and complicated path that it traveled in the second half of the 19th century until the First World War and the first years after it, deserves a particularly high evaluation. The entire first chapter is devoted to this problem, in which the Ukrainian question is placed within the framework of the evolution of the various national ideas in the Russian Empire, but also more broadly in the European context, and in my opinion, its interweaving in the complex international relations in the course of the preparations for a major European war, which would later become the First World War. In this chapter, Inna Manasieva has shown not only an in-depth knowledge of Ukrainian and Russian issues, but also her ability to explain the successes and failures of Ukrainian propaganda with external factors, which at the beginning of the 20th century began to play an increasingly important role.

The most important for the subject of the book are the second and third chapters, the historical action of which is located already in Bulgaria and in the Ukrainian lands, where the propaganda of the Union for the Liberation of Ukraine is developing and the relations between Bulgaria (passing through different positions: neutral, belligerent, winner of the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk and defeated in the Treaty of Neuilly) and the newly created Ukraine, which has undergone no less political transformations. The wonderful analysis of the different attitude not only in Bulgaria, but also in Europe to the Ukrainian and Polish national propaganda deserves special attention here. To the explanations of Inna Manasieva, I would add one more thing - the presence of historical state law in the Polish case (the Polish Commonwealth) and the absence of such in the Ukrainian case.

My summary of the qualities of the habilitation work of Inna Manasieva is that both the topic, the additionally developed problems and the analysis are at a high scientific level and demonstrate the maturity of the author as a historian researcher.

3. General esteem of the publications of the participant

Since it is an academic position of "associate professor", not only the habilitation thesis is important, but also the overall scientific output of Inna Manasieva. For participation in the competition, she has attached one more collective monograph (Матяш І., А. Тертична, І. Манасієва. Українсько-болгарські відносини: офіційна і культурна дипломатія (1918–1944), published by the Institute of History of Ukraine in Kyiv in 2021), as well as 22 other publications (articles, studies and published reports from scientific conferences) of a different nature, but issued in serious scientific publications.

Among these publications, I would point out as particularly important for the problematic chosen by the participant in the contest those related to the propaganda of the Ukrainian question in the specified chronological period (the second half of the 19th century until the years after the First World War), indicated in the documentation under the number: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12 and 13. And since Inna Manasieva is first and foremost a Bulgarian historian, she has also introduced her research presenting the fate of the Bulgarians in the Russian Empire and to some extent in the Soviet Union to scientific exchange. We find them in the list of her publications under the numbers: 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 22.

4. Estimation of the other activities of the applicant

In addition to scientific publications, Inna Manasieva, PhD, has also carried out other scientific activities, the most important of which is her participation in seven Bulgarian and international scientific projects between 2007 and 2020. Among them, it is worth noting the ones related to her research field: "Bulgaria and Ukraine: from the Eurasian empires to the European Union" (2007-2010, jointly with the Center for Bulgarian Studies and Balkan Studies "Marin Drinov" at the University of Kharkiv); "Russia and the West in Southeast Europe: Political and Sociocultural Aspects, XVIII - XXI Centuries." (2009-2011, jointly with the Institute of Slavic Studies at the Russian Academy of Sciences); "Modern nations and the role of elites in their formation and development" (2015-2017); "Foreign migrations in Bulgaria, 19th-21st centuries: historical-demographic, socio-anthropological and ethno-cultural aspects" (2015-2018).

Her activity as scientific secretary of the "History of the World and International Relations in New and Contemporary History" section of the Institute is also of great importance.

5. Evaluation of the scientific indicators

The scientific data of Inna Manasieva clearly shows that her publications and their citations in other scientific publications significantly exceed the required points for awarding the academic position "Associate Professor". According to the various indicators of publications, she receives the following points: according to indicator A - 50 points, according to indicator B - 100 points, according to indicators D and D - 340 points (with a requirement of 200 points) For the citation and review of her publications received - 100 points (if required 50 points).

6. Conclusion

The analysis of the habilitation thesis of Inna Manasieva, the review of her numerous publications, as well as my personal scientific contacts with her over the years give me full reason to recommend to the scientific jury of Inna Manasieva to be awarded the academic position "Associate Professor" in professional field 2.2. History and archeology (New and Contemporary General History. Professional direction 2.2. "History and archeology", Scientific specialty "New and Contemporary General History" (Ukrainians and Ukraine in the history of Europe) for the needs of the "History of the World and International Relations in New and Contemporary History" section of the Institute for Historical Studies - BAS.

With which I declare that I will confidently vote for the awarding of the academic position "Associate Professor" to Inna Manasieva.

November 12, 2023

Reviewer:

(Prof, Iskra Baeva, PhD)