

БЪЛГАРСКА АКАДЕМИЯ НА НАУКИТЕ ИНСТИТУТ ЗА ИСТОРИЧЕСКИ ИЗСЛЕДВАНИЯ	
Изходящ №	дата 201 г.
Входящ № <u>888</u>	дата <u>30.09.2016</u> г.
София 1113, бул. Шипченски проход № 52, бл. 17 тел.: 02/ 979 29 98 ; факс: 02/ 870 21 91	

OPINION

by Prof. **Iliya G. Iliev** on the sole participant in the announced competition for the academic position of associate professor in professional field 2.2. History and archaeology, scientific specialty "Documentation, Archival Science, Paleography, including Historiography and Source Criticism" for the needs of the section "Auxiliary historical sciences and informatics" at the Institute for Historical Studies of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences,
published in the "State Gazette", issue 55 of June 16, 2026 –
Senior Assistant Professor Dr. **Konstantin Valeriev Golev**

In the period 2003-2013, Konstantin Golev graduated from the Faculty of History of Sofia University as a bachelor of archival studies, a master of archival studies and of history, as well as a doctor of history with a dissertation on a topic related to the Cuman migrations in the Balkans. In the meantime, he specialized in various university centers in Turkey, Greece, Hungary, etc. He also studied modern and extinct Western and Eastern languages suitable for his scientific activities. As a result of this long and purposeful preparation, Dr. Golev turned out to be a very suitable young addition to the section "Auxiliary Historical Sciences and Informatics" of the Institute for Historical Studies of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, where he has been working since 2018 and where he currently holds the position of Chief Assistant Professor.

Dr. Golev is participating in the current competition with one monograph (Eurasian Nomads in a Time of Change. Cuman-Kipchaks and Mongols in the Whirlpool of the Thirteenth Century. Sofia: Academic Publishing House "Prof. Marin Drinov", 2026, 412 pp.) and about twenty studies and articles presented in his publication list, which is part of the documentation for this competition. All of them confirm Dr. Golev's in-depth penetration into the topic of the Eurasian Steppe, especially in its European dimensions. The author of these publications himself has described in relatively detail his contributions to the two main areas of his work - the Cuman and the Mongol. In order not to repeat them here, I will only note the very useful for the development of Bulgarian science presentations of the main sources for

this part of the history of the Eurasian steppe, as well as the terminological clarifications, which constitute a good basis for further researchers in this scientific field.

For the habilitation of a scientist – which is the aim of this competition – of the greatest importance is his habilitation work, which in the case of Dr. Golev represents a study of certain aspects of Cuman-Kipchak and Mongolian history during the crucial (for Southeastern Europe too!) thirteenth century. Or as the author himself summarized: "...to study several certain aspects of this key period for the history of Eurasia, instead of presenting a chronologically constructed narrative of the dramatic thirteenth century." But when we become familiar with these "several aspects", it becomes clear that Dr. Golev's plan was to focus on key aspects of the political, cultural and military history of the communities under consideration, thereby presenting them through characteristics that played an important role at that time in the construction of their state associations and in the influence exerted in the following decades on the settled peoples of the Eurasian zone that joined them.

I would go further and say that this plan of the researcher was developed in general terms far back in time, when he began to study the aspects of the mentioned communities of nomadic peoples, the result of which developments is the list of publications presented in the documentation for the competition. I will give just one example. Chapter two of Dr. Golev's monographic study: "Ecology of Warfare: The Seasonal Campaigns of the Cuman-Qipchaqs in Eastern Europe and Central Asia" pp. 114-183) was prepared on the basis of his research published under the following titles:

1) "Ecology of Warfare: The Seasonal Campaigns of the Cuman-Qipchaqs in Eastern Europe and Central Asia" *Chronica*. Vol. 21, 2023: Nomads and Their neighbors in the Middle Ages. Eds. K. Golev and D. Rusev. Szeged, pp. 117-181.

2) "They Could Not Fight Anymore Because of the Summer": The Asymmetrical Seasonal Military Activity of the Cuman-Kipchaks in the Balkans. *Historical Review*, LXXVII (4), 2021, pp. 5-23.

But this is only one of the characteristic features of the work under consideration. I would not fail to mention its scrupulous study of the historical sources and basic literature on the issues discussed (in particular in chapter one: "Cuman-Kipchaks and Mongols in the Mirror of Medieval Sources and the Focus of Modern Science", pp. 27-113, as well as in all places in the text that require it). I mention this quite consciously, reminding you that the focus of the section, for whose needs this associate professorship competition has been announced, is closely related to historiography and source studies.

But let me return to the question of the essence of the current competition – conferring the title of associate professor on the candidate. In addition to a significant habilitation work with its contributions, it is expected that he will already be an established scholar in the chosen field, who is recognizable not only in the guild of Bulgarian medieval historians, but also among foreign colleagues. I believe that if we ask ourselves the question of whether Dr. Golev meets these requirements, the answer will be positive. This is necessitated by the significant number of citations of his works in prestigious scientific publications, as well as by Golev's numerous participations in scientific conferences in our country and abroad, and in some cases he was among the organizers and leaders of these scientific events. Here we can also mention his authoritative appearances in the media and his lecturing activity, which is also not to be ignored.

In the end, I must mention that the special commission at the Institute for Historical Research - BAS determined that the documents submitted by Dr. Golev for participation in the competition were completely regular and met the requirements of the relevant law and the regulations for its implementation. I have nothing left to say but to declare that I will vote positively for the awarding of the scientific title of "associate professor" to Dr. Konstantin Golev, which will be recorded in the report of the chairman of the esteemed scientific jury to the Scientific Council of the Institute for Historical Research of BAS.

Sofia, 21.09. 2026

Prof. Iliya G. Iliev