

ABSTRACTS

Monographs

1. *Bulgaria and Greece in a Maze of Monologues*. Sofia: Institute of Balkan Studies and Centre of Thracology, 2022, 350 p. [*България и Гърция в лабиринт от монолози*. София: ИБЦТ, 2022, 350 стр. ISBN: 978-619-7179-28-6]

The monograph offers an overview of the development of Bulgarian-Greek relations in the period from their official establishment (1880) to their severance during World War II (1941). This long period, from the perspective of the researcher, is marked by the inability of Bulgaria and Greece to reach understanding. Obsessed with the pursuit of national goals, the politicians in Sofia and Athens refused to address any other issues of the inter-state relations, using them only as a means of exerting pressure and gaining advantages for the sake of creating a big and powerful state. The monograph seeks to analyze the consequences caused in Bulgarian-Greek relations by the lack of dialogue, compromise, balance, moderation, hope and prospects. Its aim is to distance itself, as far as possible, from the often completely opposite points of view of the Bulgarian and Greek researchers and to offer a balanced view of the historical events.

The first chapter traces the Bulgarian-Greek political relations and analyzes the reasons that prevented the achievement of understanding. It builds on research on various specific topics that make up the complex of political relations, complements them with previously unpublished documents and creates a more comprehensive view of the political relations between Sofia and Athens. The second chapter features the unequal positions of Bulgaria and Greece in the diplomatic and economic spheres. It traces the creation of the Greek consular network in the Bulgarian lands, which considerably preceded the establishment of diplomatic relations between Sofia and Athens. The development of the consular network is part of the complex of political relations, but it is also closely related to the economic issues between the two states. Bulgarian-Greek consular and economic relations have not been the subject of independent research so far, which is why data from archival sources and specialized publications of the era have been used to elucidate them. The Greek communities in Bulgaria and the Bulgarian ones in Greece are the object of study in the third chapter of the monograph. It focuses on the problems faced by Greeks and Bulgarians within alien nation-states. The parallel presentation of the minority communities and the difficulties they encountered seeks to reveal the similarities in their situation and to create an understanding of the reasons that led to their destruction. The propaganda and the public sentiments it created, as well as the activities of the Bulgarian-Greek societies that existed in the 1930s are discussed in the last chapter of the monograph. It traces the attempts at establishing and developing scientific and cultural ties between Bulgarians and Greeks, with special consideration given to the different view of the neighbours contained in the reports and memoirs of the diplomats.

2. *The Bulgarians in Ottoman Salonica*. Sofia: Institute of Balkan Studies and Centre of Thracology, 2020, 440 p. [Българите в османския Солун. София: ИБЦТ, 2020, 440 стр. ISBN: 978-619-7179-12-5]

This monograph is the first comprehensive study of the participation of Bulgarians in the political, economic and public life of Ottoman Salonica. It seeks to present and analyse the available information about the Bulgarian community in the city during the late Ottoman period. The text is thematically arranged and the issues in it are chronologically traced.

The first chapter analyses the data on the demographic development of the Bulgarian community in Salonica, its organizational cohesion and public life. Special attention has been attached to the buildings and properties acquired by the community, as their purchase was an essential part of its activities that has not been the subject of historical quest so far. The second chapter is dedicated to Bulgarian education in the city and features the education both in the elementary and in the high schools, as well as the participation of Bulgarians in non-Bulgarian educational institutions. It seeks to draw a comparison among the issues facing the different levels of education and to place them in the context of the major educational trends in Ottoman Salonica and in the Bulgarian state. The third chapter features the involvement of the Bulgarians in the city's public and political life. It emphasizes the position and importance of the Bulgarian events compared to the initiatives of the other religious and national groups that inhabited it. The last paragraph examines the Bulgarian perceptions of Salonica and the significance of the city in the memory of the Bulgarians.

The above-mentioned problems are practically not represented in historiography, although a whole hundred years after the end of the Ottoman period, Thessaloniki continues to attract the interest of scholars who find in it different themes, new perspectives and unexplored fields of research. In addition to their research, the monograph draws on a large number of unpublished documents from Bulgarian and foreign archives, memoirs, periodicals and reference books, literature and filmography. The historical perspective of the research is expanded with interviews of heirs of the Bulgarian families from Salonica, which contribute to raising a number of questions from the great theme of memory.

Articles

- 1. Political projections of the Slavic and anti-Slavic idea in the Balkans (The example of Dr. Ivan Seliminski and Prof. Neoklis Kazazis). In: *Russia between East and West: Politics, Ideology, Diplomacy. Collection in honor of Prof. Dimitar Vechev*. Ed. T. Georgieva, I. Baeva. Sofia: St. Kliment Ohridski University Press, 2022, p. 63-80. [Политически проекции на славянската и антиславянската идея на Балканите (Примерът на д-р Иван Селимински и проф. Неоклис Казазис). В: *Русия между Изтока и Запада: политика, идеология, дипломация. Сборник в чест на доц. Димитър Вечев*. Съст. Т. Георгиева, И. Баева. София: СУ "Св. Климент Охридски", 2022, с. 63-80].**

The article examines the various dimensions of the Slavic idea in the Balkans and emphasises the ideological and political aspects of the issue. A comparative analysis of its projections on the Balkans allows us to identify and draw the attention to the distinctive traits on the national ideologies, and to link these to the specific political aims of the Balkan peoples. The different perspectives which Bulgarians and Greeks have in approaching the Slavic idea, presented by the examples of Dr. Ivan Seliminski (1799-1867) and Prof. Neoklis Kazazis (1849-1936), demonstrates how the interpretation of this idea was embedded in the political conjuncture.

2. Elementary Education of the Bulgarians in Ottoman Salonica. In: *Greeks and Bulgarians: Parallels and intersections in history and culture*. Ed. Y. Konstantinova, E. Naxidou, Sofia: Institute of Balkan Studies & Centre of Thracology, 2021, p. 141-164.

The aim of this paper is to gain insight into the details of the creation, the organization and development of Bulgarian elementary schools in Ottoman Salonica. These schools enhanced literacy and the culture of the population by combining educational, nurturing, social and national functions. Despite the numerous obstacles faced by Bulgarian elementary education in Salonica, there were several positive trends - a steady increase in the number of pupils and the wider coverage by the school network.

3. ‘The Bulgarian Salonica’ – *Études balkaniques*, 2020/2, p. 358-380.

The article analyzes the development of the Bulgarian views about Thessaloniki from the middle of the 19th century to the present day. Almost until the second decade of the 20th century Ottoman Salonica used to be a bigger, richer and more modern city than the Bulgarian capital. It evoked much feeling and interest among Bulgarians, who saw in it many economic, political and cultural opportunities. However, after the wars of the beginning of the 20th century, for Bulgarians, Salonica was primarily linked with their freedom fighting, so its image is dominated by themes of death and self-sacrifice, of fear and courage, of prisons and concentration camps. In the era of socialism the public notions were dominated by the proud of successes of the Bulgarian education and the national dimensions of the revolutionary struggle aimed against ‘the European capital and Turkish oppressors’. After 1989 there was revisiting of the topics of violence as part of the national struggle and the loss of the native home. The works dedicated to these topics were most commonly created by descendants of refugees that used them as a vehicle to revive the ancestral memory, sought self-cognition and construction of the past-future link.

4. The Saints Cyril and Methodius Bulgarian High School in Ottoman Salonica – the pride of the exarchate Education system. – *Macedonian Review*, 2020/4, p. 29-44. [Солунската българска мъжка гимназия „Св. Св. Кирил и Методий“ – гордостта на екзархийската образователна система. – *Македонски преглед*, 2020/4, с. 29-44]

The Saints Cyril and Methodius Bulgarian High School in Ottoman Salonica was the foundation from which the education in the Bulgarian Exarchate in the Ottoman Empire drew strength. It offered pedagogical courses (1887 – 1896) and trade courses (from 1899 onwards), which developed into a trade department that spanned off as an independent trade high school in 1908. The teachers at the Salonica High School were undoubtedly the best staff of the Bulgarian education at the time, outstanding individuals, prominent in the social and political life, professing different ideas and finding it hard to obey authority. Over the 30 years of its existence the Salonica Boys' High School experienced glorious moments and decline, riots and scandals, internal fights and transformations, but it remained the most well-known Bulgarian educational institution in Ottoman Macedonia.

- 5. The Holy Annunciation Bulgarian Girls' High School in Salonica. In: *Thessaloniki and the Bulgarians: history, memory, present*. Ed. Y. Konstantinova. N. Danova, J. Zhelev. Sofia: ИВСТ, 2019, p. 197-221. [Българската девическа гимназия "Св. Благовещение" в Солун. В: *Солун и българите: история, памет, съвремие*. Съст. Ю. Константинова, Н. Данова, Й. Желев. София: ИБЦТ, 2019, ISBN 978-619-7179-10-1, с. 197-221]**

The Holy Annunciation Bulgarian Girls' High School in Salonica has never been the subject of a separate study. The text seeks to fill this gap by relying mainly on unpublished documents from the Bulgarian Exarchate collection, kept at the Central State Archives in Sofia and on part of the archives of the Girls' High School itself, kept at the Manuscripts and Rare Publications Department of the National Library of Greece. Additionally, I rely also on materials from other Bulgarian archival repositories and information has been obtained from the 70 volumes of Exarchate archives, kept at the Ecclesiastical Historical and Archival Institute of the Patriarchate of Bulgaria. Founded in 1881, the Holy Annunciation Bulgarian Girls' High school in Salonica had a steady upward development until its closure in 1913, due to the strict order and discipline and the high motivation of the girls to complete their studies. The problems of the girls' education that should be highlighted were the high morbidity rate among the students and their low social status.

- 6. Greece in the Eastern Crisis – the Potential of the Neutrality. In: *The Balkans and Europe in the Eastern Crisis 1875-1881*. Ed. P. Mitev, T. Georgieva. Sofia: St. Kliment Ohridski University Press, 2019, pp. 343-353. [Гърция в Източната криза – възможностите на неутралитета. В: *Балканите и Европа в Източната криза 1875-1881*. Съст. П. Митев, Т. Георгиева. София, УИ „Св. Кл. Охридски“, 2019, с. 343-353. ISBN: 978-954-07-4653-1]**

The article traces the results of the neutrality policy sustained by the Kingdom of Greece during the Eastern Crisis (1875-1878). It focuses on Athens' specific foreign policy actions in defence of the Greek national interests. Special attention is paid to the methods used by the Greek politicians in pursuit of their goals – diplomatic games, Balkan

negotiations, mutinies and blackmail. The text analyzes the possibilities offered by the policy of neutrality and discusses how successful it was for Greece in the context under consideration.

- 7. From Emulation to War: Bulgarian-Greek Relations in the 1900s.** In: *Ιστορήματα 6, Ιστορίες πολέμου στη Νοτιοανατολική Ευρώπη. Μια προσέγγιση στη διαχρονία.* Επ. Α. Κόλια-Δερμιτζάκη, Β. Σειρηνίδου, Σ. Πλουμίδης. Εθνικό και Καποδιστριακό Πανεπιστήμιο Αθηνών. Αθήνα: Εκδόσεις Ηρόδοτος, 2018, p. 419-438. ISBN 978-960-485-172-0.

This text tries to present a wider view of the foreign policy goals of Greece and Bulgaria in the beginning of the 20th century and the methods used in their pursuit. Its' aim is to demonstrate how the idolizing of national goals, the unwillingness to reach a foreign policy compromise and the support for nationalist rhetoric inevitably led Bulgarians and Greeks to the military clash of 1913. The Balkan Wars were expected and desired both in Bulgaria and in Greece, however, a hundred years later it is clear that the Balkan Wars had brought about neither prosperity, nor relief, nor maturity to the Bulgarian and Greek societies. On the contrary, their outcome preconditioned the involvement of Bulgaria and Greece in World War I and World War II on the side of different political alliances, which virtually predetermined the fate of generations of Bulgarians and Greeks.

- 8. Commensurability or Balance? In: Η Θεσσαλονίκη και η βαλκανική ενδοχώρα στους Βαλκανικούς πολέμους. 100 χρόνια μετά.** Επιμ. Ε. Μαντά. Θεσσαλονίκη: Ίδρυμα Μελετών Χερσονήσου του Αίμου, Εθνικό Ίδρυμα Ερευνών και Μελετών «Ελευθέριος Βενιζέλος», 2017, p. 99-122.

The aim of this article is to compare the goals with which Bulgaria and Greece entered into war with the Ottoman Empire in 1912 and to highlight the reasons which made the Second Balkan War inevitable. The parallel presentation of the Bulgarian and Greek perceptions of the events allows for the avoidance of stereotypical notions which often prevail in our national historiographies. Parallel to the goals of the governments, the article examines the public mood by focusing on their interrelation. Situating the foreign policy questions in a domestic context is often the only way to explain taking, prima facie, absurd political decisions.

Chapters in collective monographs

1. “Lost Homelands”: Refugees, Migrants, Minorities in 20th Century Greece. In: *Masks off! Nationalism in the Balkans in the 20th Century.* Ed. R. Preshlenova. Sofia, Paradigma, 2018, pp. 115-159. [„Загубени родини“: бежанци, преселници, малцинства в Гърция през XX век. В: *Маски долу! Национализмът на Балканите през XX век.* Съст. Р. Прешленова. София, Парадигма, 2018, с. 115-159. ISBN: 978-954-326-344-8]

The chapter analyzes the Greek national question in the “short” 20th century. A brief overview is provided of the origin, development, essence, and various methods of implementing the Greek Megali idea. The emphasis is laid on the consequences of its collapse (1922) for the Greeks. The text examines Athens' policy vis-a-vis the minority groups that ended up within the borders of the Greek state after the wars of the early 20th century. It is concluded that the ultimate goal of the Greek minority policy was to achieve national homogeneity of the state via assimilation of its new subjects. The relationship between the minority policy and the foreign policy goals and issues of Greece is explored. This relationship helps, for example, explain the reasons that led the Greek politicians to refuse, in 1992, to recognize the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.

2. Greece: Strategic Opportunities and Traditional Problems. In: *Contemporary Balkans. The Challenges of the 21st Century*. Ed. A. Kostov. Sofia: Tendril, 2021, p. 51-66. [Гърция: стратегически възможности и традиционни проблеми. В: *Съвременните Балкани: Предизвикателствата на XXI век*. Съст. Ал. Костов. София, Тендрил, 2021, ISBN: 978-619-91496-7-6, с. 51-66]

During the second decade of the 21st century, Greece experienced a severe crisis that had economic, as well as serious social and political dimensions. However, the Greek political elite managed to take the country out of the economic crisis, to restore stability, to preserve the democratic character of governance and to reconfirm the future of Greece in the European Union and NATO. All Greek governments during the past decades have guaranteed the security and the interests of their state, relying on their relations as allies with the USA. Greece balances successfully between its commitments to its partners from the European Union and Russia's interests in the region. The country needs such a multilateral insurance due to the lasting deterioration of its relations with Turkey. Precisely the development of Greek-Turkish relations and the ensuing potential disturbances in the balance of powers in the region are the most serious challenges that Greece can present before Bulgaria today.