

REFERENCE FOR ORIGINAL SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS

On the monograph, which was submitted as a habilitation thesis:

Стрезова, А. Българската дипломация. Институции и представители. 1879-1918.
[Strezova, A. Bulgarian diplomacy. Institutions and representatives. 1879-1918]. София:
Авангард прима, 2017. ISBN 978-619-160-862-1

The study examines the establishment and development of the Bulgarian diplomatic service from the Liberation to the end of the reign of Tsar Ferdinand I. It describes the structure of the Central Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Religious Denominations, analyses its staffing and examines in detail the two normative acts that regulate the career: the Regulations for the Organization of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1897) and the Law on the Structure and Service of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1907). The establishment of the country's diplomatic network is also traced, first in the neighbouring Balkan states, then in the capitals of the European Great Powers, and during the First World War in the United States.

Attention is also paid to the organisation of Bulgaria's consular network. The issue of the financing of the Foreign Ministry is also discussed. The names of some of the foreign ministers who have left their mark on the modernization of the institution are highlighted, and a brief presentation is made on the social profile of the Bulgarian diplomat. The text presents the biographies of 76 representatives - foreign ministers and diplomats of the new Bulgaria. Many of them are unknown to the general public. The book is accompanied by tables and photographs.

The author's research on the structure and development of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the denominations creates a successful model and gives new impetus and a different perspective to the study of institutional history. The codification of the rules for the organization of the ministry and the foreign representations provides the legal framework for the process of state building and in this sense are an integral part of the topic under study. The construction of Bulgaria's diplomatic and consular network is revealed in full, as for the first time data on the funding and staffing of the ministry are also drawn upon.

An important and contributory point in the monograph is its encyclopedic part, containing 76 names of Bulgarian diplomats. The biographies of the well-known figures have been updated and expanded according to the latest research on the subject, and the majority of the articles are dedicated to unknown personalities - builders of modern Bulgarian diplomacy. The biographical texts become a good starting point not only for the study of personal biographies, but also contribute to the deepening of genealogical research related to some Bulgarian families.

On the monograph, which was not submitted as a major habilitation thesis:

Стрезова, А. Последен по рода си. Д-р Георги Вълкович (1833-1892). [Strezova, A. The last of his kind. Dr. George Valkovich (1833-1892)]. Велико Търново: Фабер, 2022. ISBN 978-619-00-1475-1

The monograph describes the biography and professional activity of one of the prominent post-liberation activists of the new Bulgaria. The study is based on rich evidence collected from various archival repositories, publications in the press, diaries and memoirs of contemporaries of the events, historiographical research. The book aims to present in detail the life path of one of the remarkable figures in our modern history. A man of two epochs, Dr. George Valkovich lived in two different worlds, the product of two different political systems, but his role in both places was guiding, and his contribution to the progress of his respective society distinctive.

Despite numerous encyclopedic articles on the hero's personality, there is no detailed account of his life and professional activities. His life is traced in detail and presents a continuous narrative of a full-blooded and dedicated life to the community.

The description of Dr. Valkovich's biography is also the story of the birth of a new Bulgaria, the history of its institutions and the creation of modern Bulgarian diplomacy. Dr. Valkovich's life is also a narrative of the rise of the modern Bulgarian, essentially European, with a dash of oriental admixture, who builds the new Bulgarian society as a father, friend, guardian, protector and mentor.