

R E V I E W

by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mihail Ivanov Gruev - SU "St. Kliment Ohridski"/ State Agency "Archives", habilitated in Professional direction 2.2. – History and Archeology (History of Bulgaria) on the scientific works for participation in a competition for the academic position "Associate Professor" at the New Bulgarian University in Professional Direction 2.2. - History and Archeology (History of Bulgaria), announced in the State Gazette no. 92/18.11.2022, with candidate Senior Assistant Professor Dimitar Yordanov Gyudurov, Ph.D.

I. Assessment of compliance with the minimum national requirements and the requirements of the New Bulgarian University

By order of the rector of the New Bulgarian University Z-RK-79/22.12.2022, I have been appointed as a member of a scientific jury for the holding of a competition for the academic position of "associate professor" in the Department of Higher Education - 2. Humanities; Professional direction – 2.2. – History and Archaeology; Scientific specialty - 05.03.06 - History of Bulgaria, in the "History" department of the NBU. The competition was announced in the State Gazette, no. 92/ 18.11.2022. By internal decision of the scientific jury, I have been designated as a reviewer. During the movement and implementation of the entire procedure, no violations have been committed and the legal requirements have been complied with. Based on the presented documents, there is every reason to conclude that it was carried out in accordance with the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its Application, as well as the Ordinance on the Development of the Academic Staff at the NBU. The given further course of the procedure fully meets the requirements of the specified normative acts. The only candidate in the competition is Sen. Assistant Professor Dimitar Yordanov Gyudurov, Ph.D. He was elected to this academic position after a competition in 2013, therefore only his publications after that will be the subject of the review. The candidate has submitted two published monographs, 3 studies and 5 articles, two of which are in English, for participation in the competition for associate professor. The works proposed for participation in the competition, as well as the total number of points collected by the candidate, fully correspond to the minimum national requirements and the requirements of the NBU for occupying the academic position of "associate professor".

II. Research activity and results

In the research work of Sen. Asst. Dr. Dimitar Gyudurov, several thematic areas could be distinguished. First of all, it should be noted that he has a permanent interest in the history of the ethno-cultural and religious communities and groups inhabiting Bulgaria, as well as their relations with the state in the period 1878-1944. He has been working on these problems since his doctoral work. , protected in 2012. Undoubtedly, the most in-depth are his studies on the Muslim minorities in the country, on the activities of the mufti institution, the influence of the Ottoman Empire and later Kemalist Turkey on him, the relationship with the official Bulgarian state, etc. n. Although more peripheral, his scientific interests also extend to the smaller ethno-cultural groups in the country such as Vlachs, Greeks, etc., considered again in the context of the policies of individual governments towards them.

The second thematic area in which the candidate has entered in the last few years is related to the production and smuggling of various types of opiates and the entire criminal subculture formed and accompanying this phenomenon. Gyudurov dedicated his last monograph to him, as well as another study. What is worth noting is the consideration of all these issues in a very broad international and Balkan-Mediterranean context.

The third thematic area in the candidate's work is devoted to the so-called "social ills". It is about researching problems such as pimping and prostitution, the spread of syphilis and other venereal diseases related to them, etc. This author's interest in the dark sides of Bulgarian everyday life at the end of the 19th and the first half of the 20th century testifies to his reorientation to the problems of social history, medical anthropology and, in general, to new research spaces, which until now remained outside the interest of traditional historiography.

Undoubtedly, the most significant among the works proposed for review is the monograph by Dimitar Gyudurov, entitled: "Bulgarians and opiates. Production and trade 1879 - 1944", New Bulgarian University Press, 2022. The research was carried out on the basis of numerous and diverse sources, including documents of the main state institutions dealing with the regulation and control of opium production, police reports, correspondence with the various international bodies after the First World War trying to limit the production and use of opium derivatives, periodicals of the era, research and publications by a number of foreign authors in the fields of forensics and social history, etc. In addition, the author has presented the problem

both in its internal-Bulgarian social dimensions and in its international context and with the commitments that the country undertakes by joining the various conventions and committees of the League of Nations dedicated to the fight against this global social phenomenon. In this sense, the situation with the production and distribution of drugs in Bulgaria is examined in a broad historical and geographical context, presenting the rich Ottoman tradition in the legal spectrum, on the one hand, the emerging new social reality in the post-war period, in which all this becomes a breeding ground for organized crime, on the other hand, and the obligations that the Bulgarian state undertakes in terms of limiting the problem - on the third. In fact, the author traces these three factors in parallel, determining the dynamics of opiate production and trade, incorporating a number of private cases in his presentation. One of the most important among them is that of Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organisation, which is often the main investor, producer, exporter and consumer in the entire chain of opium production. In this sense, against the background of the existing voluminous literature on various aspects of the organization's activity, Gyudurov fills an important gap, partially illuminating the issue of its financing. However, an objective view of the study requires that some of its weaknesses be pointed out. The main one has to do with the almost spontaneous empiricism of the reconstruction, where the reader literally gets tired of keeping track of the dozens of names, protocols, dates, etc., sometimes located on the same page. Undoubtedly, with an inevitable new edition, announced by the ambition of the author himself to create a kind of trilogy on, let's call them the "shadow sides" of life in Bulgaria in the period before the Second World War, the text should be freed from this ballast. My other remark has to do with the serious overestimation by the author of the knowledge of chemistry of ordinary readers, and especially of those of them who unsystematically use intoxicants. In this sense, all the substances mentioned, which are mentioned as if self-evident: morphine, cocaine, codeine, dionine, eukodal, dicodide, dilaudid, etc., need some kind of description, either under a line or in a table in the end of the text. Regardless of the mentioned weaknesses, however, it should be emphasized that the work is definitely contributory and innovative in many respects.

The second monograph, with which the candidate participated in the competition, is dedicated to the policy of the Bulgarian state towards the Muslim religious minority and the role of Turkish propaganda in the period 1923-1944. As is known, this is a problem relatively well studied in Bulgarian historiography. In itself, this fact represents a certain research challenge, as it requires an upgrade over the known and

at the same time integration into the text of the main scientific achievements. It can definitely be said that Gyudurov has mastered it, since the exposition skilfully combines new and hitherto unknown facts with a critical analysis of the main studies on the problem. This is most clearly seen in the analysis of the Treaty of Angora and the accompanying Settlement Convention of 1925. Since it also poses a number of unresolved and open questions in bilateral relations, some of which to this day, this matter has so far been subject to numerous and contradictory interpretations. The author's contribution is expressed in a critical analysis of the text of the convention itself, pointing out the different readings on both sides, as well as the different interpretations in the literature. In the end, he managed to move away from the polar and emotional assessments of him and Simeon Radev himself, as the main negotiator from the Bulgarian side, and to point out that, taking into account the realities at that moment, this was the only possible result of the long negotiations between the two countries.

Another contributing point in the research are the pages dedicated to the emigration flow of Bulgarian Turks to Turkey in the 1930s. As is well known, this is the least studied emigration wave, and for this reason the author fills an important gap in knowledge. He convincingly traces the so-called "push factors" in demography - the factors of repulsion in the direction of Turkey, as well as the counteracting pull factors - attraction factors that determine the overall logic of the emigration process. Undoubtedly, among the second group of factors, an important place is occupied by Kemalist propaganda gaining strength in the country, to which an important part of the study is devoted. Although this issue, as well as the struggles between the so-called Old Turks, on the one hand, and the Kemalists, on the other, are relatively well-studied, the author condenses the picture known up to that point, mostly with new facts about the role of the various Bulgarian governments in this controversy. A central place is given to the construction and confirmation of the mufti institution as a kind of intermediary in their contacts with the Muslim communities in the country. Although I do not share all of the author's assessments, especially regarding Kemalism, I definitely think that his research is helpful and fills important gaps in the knowledge of the ethnic politics of the Bulgarian state during the interwar period.

The candidate's two monographs, as well as other studies and articles, have been cited in a total of 16 scientific works and publications at home and abroad.

III. Learning and teaching activity

This part of the review is primarily based on the applicant's self-assessment report, the report of the Attestation Commission for Long-Term Attestation, and the attached CV. From the cited documents, it can be seen that during the period of 2015, Gyudurov was involved in a rather intensive and continuous teaching activity and non-auditory employment. The candidate reports active participation in the development and accreditation of practically all bachelor's and master's programs of the "History" department in recent years, online seminars, traveling seminars, etc. During the period under review, he is a member of the NBU Library Council. He was the supervisor of 1 successfully defended graduate student and reviewer of 13 others. Information about them, as well as the topics on which he was a lecturer, are published on the official website of the NBU, History Department. According to the data provided by the Center for Quality and Evaluation of the NBU, the candidate was evaluated in the student questionnaires with an excellent score of 4.83 (out of a maximum score of 5.00).

IV. Conclusion

What has been said above gives me reason to conclude that a worthy candidate for the academic position of Assoc. Professor in the "History" department of the New Bulgarian University has been presented to the honorable scientific jury. We are talking about a specialist who has already proven himself in science and in teaching work, whose work is distinguished by correctness to the facts, scientific integrity and thoroughness. Although most of his works are devoted to more private problems, they are also characterized by a broad historical and linguistic culture. With all his scientific output, he opens new thematic fields and horizons for Bulgarian historical science and enters spaces that until that moment have either not been explored or have only been indirectly interpreted by representatives of other branches of science - sociologists, anthropologists, criminologists and etc. All his works are original and plagiarism is not found anywhere. His many years of work with students have made him an established teacher and lecturer. My assessment of his overall academic activity is categorically positive, and I am convinced to vote "Yes" the loan from Sen. assistant professor, Dr. Dimitar Yordanov Gyudurov, to the academic position of Assoc. Professor.

Reviewer:

Assoc. prof. Mihail Gruev, Ph. D.