

OPINION

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on the scientific works for participation in the competition for the academic position of

Associate Professor in the field of 2.2. History and Archaeology (History of Bulgaria),

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with candidate Assistant Professor Dr. Dimitar Yordanov Gyudurov.

I. ASSESSMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH NATIONAL AND NBU REQUIREMENTS

Dr. Gyudurov is the only candidate for the academic position of Associate Professor in the professional field 2.2. History and Archaeology (History of Bulgaria). His educational and academic profile, professional achievements, teaching and research experience, administrative and public activities fully comply with the national and NBU requirements for legitimate participation in such a competition.

II. RESEARCH WORK AND RESULTS

1. Evaluation of the submitted monography

The monographic work of Dr. Gyudurov *Bulgarians and opiates: production and trade, 1879-1944* represents a systematic historical reflection on a socially significant, well contextually situated and an unexplored problem, which has its topical projections in our present day: the political question of the “fight against drugs” in Bulgaria in the late nineteenth and the first half of the twentieth century. The research problem thus defined implies the analytical construction of a multi-layered subject consisting of three distinct layers: first, the legal production of narcotic substances; second, the criminal smuggling of opium, morphine, heroin and hashish; and third, the system of prevention constructed and implemented by the Bulgarian state. In terms of logical concretization, such a study aims to define a series of points of tension between international law in the field of legal regulation of the production, trade and use of narcotic substances, on the one hand, and Bulgarian legislation regulating the activities of “certain factors in Sofia”, directed against the illegal extraction and distribution of alkaloid derivatives in the country, on the other. Hence the empirical basis: a systematic study of archival sources using several methods. First, a genealogical

analysis of relevant documents produced and used by Bulgarian state institutions with the aim of effectively regulating smuggling. Second, an archaeological analysis of international normative acts that were reciprocated and bound Bulgaria with legal prohibitions on the production, export and sale of certain opiates. Third, a discursive analysis of institutional practices (laws, regulations, orders, reports, opinions, recommendations, files, records, information and statistics), consolidated as aggregated empirical information, to critically reconstruct both state policy and public opinion and attitudes toward narcotics during the defined historical period.

Dr. Gyuduroff's monograph has many merits that make it a scientific, original and up-to-date historical study. It clearly demonstrates a professionalism based on methodological culture, theoretical competence and empirical sensitivity, which together have led to the achievement of significant contributions. This work is an academic study because it has been prepared according to the high standards of historical scholarship; it presents us with a homogeneous picture of the state, dynamics and transformations of the social problem, thanks to its logical rigor, proven argumentation and factual impartiality. This work is an original study because, after defining the problematic situation, it formulates, in a correct and reasoned manner, its own specific questions on which the content of the monograph is based. It is a topical study, not only because its field of reflection includes a problem of Bulgarian history that has not been systematically considered, but also because it enriches historical science with an unconventional methodological strategy that focuses on the key metamorphoses in the relations between the main actors, whose insufficiently structured, coordinated and synchronized activities make effective prevention in the fight against criminal drug trafficking impossible.

2. Evaluation of the contributions of the other publications

Among the other publications of Dr. Giudurov could be distinguished the monographic work *Bulgaria, the Muslim Minority and Turkish Propaganda, 1923-1944* with its numerous heuristic results. The author has a comprehensive and detailed knowledge of the specific constellation of scholarly publications, problematizations and thematizations in this research field. The analysis of the main theses, arguments and evidence concerning Bulgarian minority politics and the influence of Kemalist propaganda creates an extraordinary situation in which incompatible interpretations clash, but also points of tension emerge, generating divergent historical tendencies. In turn, open contradictions bring to the fore unsuspected critical problems. Interpretive conflict needs to be untangled, negative discursive layers should be purged and delegitimized, while mutually

exclusive explanatory models and schemas should be reconciled through a thorough unmasking of the ideological clichés of different cognitive perspectives. The scholarly contributions of the work are obvious: not only does it overcome the dominant paradigm in local historiography - that the minority policy of the Bulgarian state towards Muslims until the autumn of 1944 should be understood as an elementary “appendage” of the repressive policy of the totalitarian state - but it also illuminates a number of new layers of meaning that are part of the immanent constitution of historical events.

The dynamic set of interrelationships between them builds an imbalanced profile of Bulgarian minority politics: it is principally, normatively and sustainably tolerant, not violent; it functions within our national experience of building a modern state governed by the rule of law that guarantees the rights of its citizens; it is a minority politics that is not based on a comprehensive and grounded concept of the nation-state, it lacks unified theoretical beginning and temporal coherence, and a sustainable institutional foundation. Therefore, it is characterized by a low degree of effectiveness: the unbalanced joint activity of the Bulgarian state, governments, and ministries, ruling elite, central administration, public institutions, police apparatus, local authorities, domestic legislation, education system, and native historiography, gives birth to the social conditions for an inadequate minority policy. Hence the main scholarly contribution: the regulatory, structural, and functional irrationality of Bulgarian minority politics between the two world wars created number of preconditions for the successful penetration of foreign propaganda strategies and tactical attempts to intervene in the internal affairs of the Bulgarian nation-state.

3. Citation from other authors

The quantity and quality of citations to Dr. Giudurov's scholarly works are convincing evidence of his contributory and authoritative presence in the Bulgarian historical community.

4. Evaluation of the results of participation in research projects

Dr. Gyudurov has participated in over 20 research and educational projects. All of them are characterized by proven professionalism and achieved significant scientific and practical results.

III. EDUCATIONAL AND TEACHING ACTIVITIES

1. Academic and non-academic employment and internships

During the whole period of his academic career at NBU (2011 - 2023), Dr. Giudurov has had a full academic and non-academic employment, covering the norms for the position he held; he has worked very actively with the e-learning module and has actually provided many different practices and internships to students.

2. Evaluation of student surveys

The average score of the students' surveys for the whole period of Dr. Giudurov's teaching activity at NBU is extremely high, close to the maximum (4.83); this is another important proof of his professionalism, collegiality and responsibility.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE AND PUBLIC ACTIVITIES

1. Participation in collective management bodies of the NBU

Dr. Giudurov is a member of the NBU Library Council, a significant and noble work directly supporting the educational process of students. He has been a scientific supervisor of one successfully defended bachelor's thesis, a reviewer of 13 bachelor's and master's theses and a member of the scientific jury of 16 successfully defended theses. Since September 2022 he has been Program Director of the Department of History.

2. Public activity

Dr. Gyudorov has a well-established place in national media publicity; his scientific expertise is an important part of contemporary explanatory models and interpretations of key social problems in Bulgaria's modern and contemporary history.

3. Attracting students to the program

Dr. Gudurov is one of the initiators and a direct participant in the establishment of three successfully launched study programs at the NBU: the BA program in History and Archaeology, the MA program in History and the MA program in History, Politics and Religion.

V. PERSONAL IMPRESSIONS OF THE CANDIDATE

I have known Dr. Giudurov for 12 years as a colleague, theoretical collaborator and humanitarian scholar with a strong commitment to historical scholarship. He is characterized by a number of positive personal qualities - good temperament, tolerance, concern, diligence and honesty, as well

as by well-established professional skills: "thirst for knowledge", reflexivity, critical research perspective, civic attitude, rich teaching and research experience, but above all academic integrity.

Conclusion: Based on all the foregoing, arguments and evidence, I am personally convinced that Dr. Dimitar Yordanov Gyudurov is a scholar of significant professional achievement and an established academic teacher. His research, publications, teaching and public activities fully support his candidacy for the academic position of Associate Professor in the field of 2.2. History and Archaeology (History of Bulgaria). As a member of the Scientific Jury, I will vote for his election and propose to the Academic Council of the NBU to confirm this decision.

Sofia, February 15, 2023

Prof. Dr. Martin Kanushev