

**Academic field: 2. Humanities.**

**Professional field: 2.2. History and Archaeology.**

**Doctoral Programme: History of Bulgaria – New Bulgarian History.**

**Humanities Faculty**

**History and Archaeology Department**

**Konstantin Preslavsky University of Shumen**

## **OPINION**

on the doctoral thesis of

doctoral candidate Lyubka Naudenova

on the topic: *Liberal Party (Radoslavists) (1908-1912)*,

for awarding the **Doctoral academic degree**

in Professional field:

**2.2. History and Archaeology.**

**Doctoral Programme: History of Bulgaria – New Bulgarian History.**

**Academic advisor: Professor Biser Georgiev, Doctor of Historical Sciences.**

**by Professor Todor Georgiev Galunov, Doctor of Political  
Sciences**

### **I. Data on the doctoral candidate**

Lyubka Naidenova graduated in History at the St. Cyril and St. Methodius University of Veliko Tarnovo. She was, successively, a history teacher, a Deputy Headmaster in 1996 – 2010, and Headmaster - since 2010- of Lyuben Karavelov Grade School in the town of Vidin.

## **II. Data on the doctoral thesis**

Lyubka Naidenova enrolled in an extra-mural doctoral programme on 11 January 2019, with a period of study of 4 years. She completed it ahead of term, with the right to defend her thesis, as from 14 April 2021.

## **III. DATA ON THE DOCTORAL THESIS AND THE ABSTRACT**

The topic is worthy of a doctoral thesis and is devoted to an academic problem which has not been sufficiently clarified by the science of history.

The doctoral thesis has been submitted in good form, in the volume of 444 pages. Structurally, it consists of Introduction, three chapters – with a total of eight paragraphs, Conclusion, a List of the sources used in Bulgarian, English, and Russian, periodicals, memories relevant to the topic of the doctoral thesis.

The sources used attest to the doctoral candidate's adequate academic knowledge of the topic studied. What is impressive is the bringing into circulation of archival units which have not been extensively used before.

The doctoral thesis is accompanied by a list of four publications directly connected with the topic. As regards the requirements for the minimal science metric indicators to be covered, the doctoral candidate is in full compliance with the criteria pursuant to the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act.

The study shows all features of classic historicity. Statistical methods, methods of historical reconstructions, comparative historical methods, methods of historical descriptions have been used. In the exposition, the thematic and chronological method has been adopted, the facts and events have been summarized. The lay-out of the text complies with the common standards.

The aim of the thesis is to clarify some problems in the history of the Liberal Party which have not been sufficiently examined yet. The doctoral candidate aptly stresses the important points in the history of the Party.

The doctoral thesis is highly informative, the source material is abundant and has been examined, summarized and analyzed by the doctoral candidate for the purposes of the study. The doctoral candidate also demonstrates excellent skills and accuracy in working with a large amount of documents, and manages to convincingly substantiate her conclusions. Very soon everyone who is working on a subject related to this study will have to use some of the information adduced here. I would like to stress the following merits of the doctoral thesis:

1. Substantial source material has been systematized – this in itself constitutes a considerable contribution. The volume of the sources used is impressive.

2. “Blank spots” in the Bulgarian historiography on the 1908 – 1912 period have been filled out.

3. A clear picture is given of the relations between the Party’s local structures and the central leadership.

4. The study of the “micro-structures” of the Party gives clarity about the specificity of local interests and the manner of conducting organizational policy. Some trouble spots have been cited with regard to the “periphery” and the “centre”.

5. The foreign policy positions of the Liberal Party are analyzed. In my opinion, the doctoral candidate sheds new light leading us towards the rejection of the one-dimensional evaluation made by the old historiography of Doctor Vasil Radoslavov’s “Germanophile” policy. This policy was consistently “Bulgarophile”, regardless of the mistakes made in the course of time.

6. Some of the most significant rule-of-law positions of the Party have been outlined.

7. Some little-known facts from the life of the Liberal Party have been revealed.

The Abstract is correct, meets the academic requirements, and is a synthesized version of the text of the doctoral thesis.

#### **IV. Academic contributions:**

1. For the first time, the organizational development of the Liberal Party in the 1908 -1912 period, and the Party's evolution between the Fifth and the Sixth Congress have been examined.
2. For the first time, the proceedings of the Sixth Congress of the Party of 1910 have been studied in detail.
3. A serious attempt has been made to estimate the number of the Party members.
4. The Liberal Party's evolution with regard to the Independence of Bulgaria has been traced.
5. An attempt has been made to determine the overall place of the Liberal Party in the Bulgarian party system.

#### **V. Publications – the doctoral candidate has four publications on the subject in prestigious academic journals.**

**VI. Comments and recommendations** – the doctoral thesis would gain even more, if it examined - at the theoretical level - the methods and techniques of Doctor Vasil Radoslavov's leadership style. Historically, this issue has been written about, but there is still more to be added to his political portrait in that respect.

## **VII. Conclusion:**

Dear colleagues,

The originality of the doctoral thesis, the existence of the required number of publications and the participation in academic events, in compliance with the provisions of the **Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act**, enable me to reach the reasoned conclusion that all conditions are present for the doctoral academic degree to be awarded to Lyubka Nikolaeva Naidenova. I shall vote, and I suggest that the honourable Members of the Academic Jury vote positively and without hesitation for the proposal submitted.

06 June 2021

the town of Veliko Tarnovo

**Professor Todor Georgiev Galunov,**

**Doctor of Political Sciences**



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