

REVIEW

For the dissertation work of Ivanka Genova Deleva on the topic "The Refugee Question in Bulgarian-Turkish Relations and the Settlement of East Thracian Refugees in Bulgaria in the Period 1913 - 1925", 224 pages, doctoral student in correspondence form of study at "Konstantin Preslavsky University of Shumen, Faculty of Humanities, Department of History and Archaeology, Doctoral program Modern and Contemporary General History (History of the Balkan Peoples), professional direction 2.2. history and archaeology, scientific field 2. humanities, scientific specialty Modern and Contemporary general history (history of the Balkan peoples) for the awarding "PhD" in history by Professor Radoslav Zahariev Mishev, Doctor of Historical Sciences

Candidate data: Ivanka Genova Deleva was born on 12.10.1973 in Burgas. From 1980 to 1991, she studied at Ivan Vazov School in the same city. In 1991 - 1999, she majored in "History and Geography" at the Faculty of History at St. Cyril And St. Methodius University Of Veliko Tarnovo and graduated with a Master's degree in history and geography and as a teacher in secondary schools. From 1997 to 1999, she was a teacher at "Vasil Levski" school in the village of Yasna Polyana, Burgas region. In 1999 - 2015, she worked as a curator in the "History" department of Regional historical museum Burgas, and since 2015, she is the chief curator in the "History" department of the same museum. Ivanka Deleva passed a competition successfully and was enrolled as a doctoral student at "Konstantin Preslavsky University of Shumen in the doctoral program "Modern and Contemporary General History (History of the Balkan Peoples), professional direction 2.2. history and archeology from 1.02.2020 to 1.02.2024 with the topic mentioned above. In the research work, the candidate focuses on the large-scale topic of the refugee issue in Bulgarian-Turkish relations 1913 - 1925. In addition to the work on this topic, she participated in a Regional historical museum project for an exhibition and catalog "Bulgarian refugees in our memory", works on a project for the "Bulgarian Saints" exhibition, as well as for the publication of a catalog for the icons in Regional historical museum Burgas.

Description of the dissertation: Refugee issues are eternally accompanying problems in international relations and the Bulgarian case is no exception. During the period considered, in the Balkans, the refugee flows affect all countries, mainly developing in directions - movements of refugees between the Ottoman Empire (later the Republic of Turkey) and the Balkan countries, refugee flows between the Balkan states themselves. Refugees between some Balkan

countries and the former Austria-Hungary, as well as those between some Balkan populations and the new states in place of the former Russian Empire, are additionally superimposed. Movements of refugees from and to Turkey, as well as between Bulgaria and the other Balkan countries, are of great importance to Bulgaria.

The dissertation is structured very well. It consists of an introduction, two parts, each with two chapters, a conclusion, sources and literature used, an index of the old and new names of the settlements in the Burgas region from 1913 to 1925, a list of abbreviations. The text is provided with graphics, photographs and statistical information. The candidate examines the refugee issue in Bulgarian-Turkish relations using the example of the Burgas region and very well justifies this emphasis.

In the introduction, I. Deleva points out the peculiarities and vicissitudes of Bulgarian-Turkish relations as a factor for the birth of refugee movements as the main subject of her work. The main goal of the dissertation was appropriately stated - clarifying the factors for the implementation of the refugee movements and the specifics of the settlement of the Bulgarian refugees in the Burgas region in 1913 - 1925. The tasks of the research include tracking the bilateral Bulgarian-Turkish relations, clarifying how the refugee is considered a question in the Bulgarian legislation, the territorial distribution and number of refugees and the specifics in the identification and organization of the settlements in the Burgas region. In accordance with tradition and requirements, the introduction provides an overview of the sources and a historiographical review.

Part one "The refugee issue in Bulgarian-Turkish relations, in the bilateral normative acts and the legislation of Bulgaria in the period 1913 - 1925." consists of two chapters. In the first chapter "The refugee issue in Bulgarian-Turkish relations and in the bilateral normative acts 1913 - 1925." the author describes and analyzes Bulgarian-Turkish relations and bilateral legal acts. Serious attention is paid to the restoration of Bulgarian-Turkish diplomatic relations after the Balkan Wars with the Treaty of Constantinople of September 16/29, 1913, and the Edirne Agreement of November 2/15 of the same year. The Angora Treaty between Bulgaria and the Republic of Turkey of October 5/18, 1925 follows. The dissertation student differentiates well between the two contradictory goals - efforts to return the refugees to Eastern Thrace and diligent work for their reception and accommodation in Bulgaria. This hesitancy and contradiction of the Bulgarian policy on the refugee issue is determined by the

objectively weak position of Bulgaria after the two unsuccessful wars of 1913 and 1915 - 1918. Second chapter "The refugee issue in the legislation of Bulgaria in 1913 - 1925." reveals the views of the ruling elite in Sofia on solving the refugee issue and the adopted legislative initiatives. These include various measures as extra overtime credit, Refugee Lands Act and more. Ivanka Deleva thoroughly and with the necessary competence studies and uses a diverse array of documents, demonstrating serious research skills. On the basis of convincing evidentiary material, the colleague launches the justified conclusion that during the studied period there is no complete and consistent refugee policy of the Bulgarian governments. Nevertheless, the authorities are making efforts to settle and integrate the refugees in Bulgaria. It is a fact that the governments of the various political powers adopt measures and laws. In this regard, the question of whether there were specifics in the attitude towards refugee flows among the various governments in 1913-1925 could be touched upon.

The object of research in the second part of the dissertation is the establishment of Eastern Thracian refugees in Bulgaria, following the example of the Burgas region. The first chapter is devoted to the territorial distribution and numbers of the East Thracian refugee flow to the Burgas region in 1913-1925, with the emphasis being placed on the geographical and settlement orientation of the refugee process. The geographical location of the incoming refugees and the settlements in Turkey where they originate from, as well as the settlements and places in the Burgas region where they migrate, have been specified. This is actually extremely important information. According to the author, refugees come from 307 settlements in Turkey and are accommodated in 230 settlements in the Burgas region, with the total number amounting to 29,775. Most of them settle in around Burgas and Ankhialo. The factors that support settlement are very well highlighted. The planned compensation for the Bulgarian refugees at the expense of the properties of the emigrating Greeks and partially Turks is insufficient. Valuable maps, graphs and statistics are attached. It is pointed out that the total number of those settled in the Burgas region compared to those settled in the whole country is 47.2%. The second chapter "The settlements of East Thracian refugees in the Burgas region during the period 1913-1925 - formation, organization and organization" offers very interesting information. According to Ivanka Deleva, different types of refugee settlements are being created in the Burgas region - 18 new settlements out of 25 for the whole country, neighborhoods, hamlets and small settlements. The chosen place of settlement does not always correspond to the conditions stipulated in the signed

documents. In the real conditions of the permanent arrival of refugees in general and in fact the settlement precedes the adoption of the legal framework. According to the author, no settlement has been completed according to modern requirements. A wonderful description is made of the difficult creation of new settlements and districts and hamlets to existing villages and towns. But later they gradually improved their infrastructure and integrated into the Bulgarian settlement system.

The conclusion presents the main conclusions and results of the dissertation work. It shows very well the adverse consequences of the agreements with the Ottoman Empire and the Republic of Turkey. Bulgarian refugees after 1912 were not only massively deported to Bulgaria, but also lost opportunities for serious compensation regarding their properties in Turkey. The author's conclusion is correct that despite the lack of a comprehensive concept for Bulgarian refugees, probably for objective reasons, the legislation and additional measures facilitate their accommodation and integration. Regarding the geographical distribution and numbers, the author believes that in the Burgas region they are 47.2% of all Eastern Thracian refugees in Bulgaria. The new settlements in the Burgas region comprise 72% of all in the Bulgarian state, and the neighborhoods, hamlets, etc. are 34%. It should be noted that the establishment of East Thracian refugees in the Burgas region strengthens the Bulgarian presence on the Black Sea coast. The opinion of I. Deleva is positive, that the settlement of refugees in the Burgas region revives some of its areas and they contribute their share to modern Bulgaria.

Ivanka Deleva has attached a list of publications on the topic of the dissertation work. It includes four articles, one of which is in print. All publications address aspects of the dissertation. That is, parts of it have already received preliminary scientific recognition and have been published in authoritative scientific editions. The abstract very well represents the essence of the dissertation work. The description of the work, the main statements, findings and conclusions of the two parts, the four chapters and the conclusion are presented in a synthesized form. Finally, the contributions are also attached. In my opinion, they are essential and acceptable, considering that the abstract fully covers its purpose.

Scientific contributions: The author demonstrates indisputable scientific contributions, which, in my opinion, are the following: The deposited study is the first comprehensive development of the accommodation of East Thracian

refugees in the Burgas region in 1913 - 1918. In this sense, it is also a contribution to the entire large-scale issue of the Refugee Question in Bulgaria and the Balkans. The work summarizes and systematizes an important part of the available source material and a very extensive bibliography, being legibly written and based on very serious and diverse evidentiary material. In this way, the information about the Eastern Thracian refugees has been condensed. The work is multi-layered, having historical, geographical, statistical, demographic and settlement planning aspects. The parameters are outlined and the research achievements on this issue are supplemented. Dissertation work is extremely important in another segment as well. It is an important contribution to maintaining the historical memory of the victims, the deportation and the accommodation of the Eastern Thracian refugees in Bulgaria, which is part of the sad and harsh picture for some peoples on the Balkan Peninsula in those years. On the other hand, as some kind of compensation, they receive the support of the Bulgarian state and the chance to successfully participate in the construction of modern Bulgaria.

Notes and recommendations: As with any scientific research, some notes and recommendations can be made to the author, mainly with a view to its possible publication as a book. I would recommend that the author more boldly launch some of her correct theses. For example, in explaining the failure of Bulgarian diplomacy to return the refugees to Turkey or obtain full compensation for their properties, she aptly cites various reasons, including the country's foreign policy isolation. At the same time, the doctoral student accurately characterizes Turkey's policy of removing the non-Christian element (p. 45). In this regard, she could cite two reasons as decisive. Firstly, the categorical policy of the Turkish state to remove the non-Christian ethnic elements through extermination or emigration, which continues with the Kemalists, and secondly, the weakness of the Bulgarian state after the two severe military and political defeats in 1913 and 1918, which predetermined the failure of its policy towards Turkey in the refugee issue. This is the reason why Bulgaria hesitates between two goals and finally makes efforts for their accommodation on Bulgarian territory, because there is no other alternative. Moreover, when she mentions the anti-Greek excesses in Bulgaria in 1906, she can explain what it is about in a footnote or in the notes with one paragraph (p. 107).

The doctoral student successfully describes, comments and draws conclusions on a rather complex subject with a lot of facts. Ivanka Deleva demonstrates skills in collecting evidence and making comparative analyses. In this way, it creates a

comprehensive picture of the refugee issue in Turkish-Bulgarian relations, not only as a private problem, but also against the background of other similar events in the Balkan region. The dissertation student has successfully passed the educational process for doctoral students, has shown the necessary scientific activity and finally managed to write and submit the dissertation work. The dissertation was thoroughly discussed at the Faculty Council on 4.12.2023 and proposed for public defense. I believe that the submitted work has an original and individual character and meets the strict legal requirements. The necessary number of points have been collected in accordance with the minimum national requirements in the Law on the development of the academic staff.

Conclusion: Based on the scientific contributions and qualities of the doctoral student Ivanka Genova Deleva highlighted so far, I believe that the dissertation work and the activities of the doctoral student fully meet the requirements for awarding "PhD" in history. The publications deposited are also sufficient and are on the subject of the dissertation work. Therefore, I confidently give a positive review and propose to the honorable Scientific Jury to award "PhD" in history to Ivanka Genova Deleva.

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06/02/2024