

## **OPINION**

of a doctoral thesis in the  
Professional field: 9. 1. National Security

On the topic:

**Revival nationalism and guaranteeing the security of Bulgarian society during the collapse of the Ottoman Empire (70s of the XVIII - 80s of the XIX century)**

author **Lyuben Georgiev Manolov**

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### **I. Data for the dissertation and the abstract.**

The dissertation is 233 pages long and includes an introduction, 3 chapters and a conclusion. The bibliography contains 249 sources - 62 documentary sources, 187 scientific literature, of which 156 in Bulgarian and 31 in foreign languages.

In technical terms, the text is organized precisely. The introduction defines the subject, formulates the goals, objectives, main thesis, working hypotheses of the study and outlines its relevance. In the next three chapters, on a solid methodological basis, the study of the formation of the self-protective Bulgarian nationalism is developed.

The first chapter traces the emergence and formation of the modern nation and nationalism. The second chapter analyzes the genesis and evolution of social forces and the Bulgarian national political thinking as prerequisites for the construction of the Bulgarian Revival nationalism. The third chapter presents the issues related to the evolution of the early, „protected“ Bulgarian nationalism as a state-building doctrine after the Liberation.

The abstract contains 48 pages and presents correctly and comprehensively the main points in the content of the dissertation. The conclusion summarizes the results of the study and presents its contributions, which reliably reflect the achievements of the reviewed work and can be considered as an achievement of its author. There are also publications in scientific journals approving the main theoretical theses of the dissertation.

In the dissertation and in the abstract, as well as in the presented

publications related to the topic of the dissertation, I did not establish the presence of plagiarism.

„Revival nationalism and guaranteeing the security of Bulgarian society during the collapse of the Ottoman Empire (70s of the XVIII - 80s of the XIX century)“

## **II. Content and main points in the dissertation.**

### **1. Relevance of the topic.**

The dissertation „Revival nationalism and guaranteeing the security of Bulgarian society during the collapse of the Ottoman Empire (70s of the XVIII - 80s of the XIX century)“ is a study that clarifies the scientific basis for considering early Bulgarian nationalism as the most important, independent, self-protective and supreme ideological achievement of the Bulgarian political thought during the epoch of the national Revival, manifesting itself as a decisive factor contributing to the unification and rapid development of the restored nation-state.

The relevance of the topic, despite its apparent „remoteness“ from our present, is determined, as is indicated by the author of the dissertation, by the fact that „in the real life of our modern society, there are indeed a huge series of specific questions related to the present and future of the Bulgarian national identity“, as well as the building and preservation of the national security of the modern Bulgarian society. It is obvious that in both plans the developed issues are topical and significant.

It is important to point out that the author makes a detailed and reasonable definition of the boundaries and concepts that form the basis of the dissertation research.

### **2. Main achievements of the dissertation.**

2.1. The successful conduct of the study is based on determining its focus, namely - conducting a political analysis of the formation of enlightened self-defense Bulgarian nationalism in the Revival, which allows Lyuben Manolov to justify the thesis that this nationalism is crucial prerequisite and mechanism for ensuring the security of Bulgarian society in the disintegrating Ottoman Empire and above all in the newly created Bulgarian state in the first years after the Liberation in 1878.

2.2. The successful implementation of the study is based on three other important prerequisites. The first is manifested in the author's desire to select and study a significant amount of „empirical“ historical information on the problem. The second is related to the approach to "empiricism" in the dissertation, which is not only presented, but using in unity the research approaches and methods formulated in the Introduction, it is subjected to in-depth analysis and leads to important theoretical summaries and conclusions about the manifestations, the essence and the role of Bulgarian Revival nationalism. The third important point is the clarity of language and argumentation in the dissertation, thanks to which the theses, exposition and conclusions are unambiguous and consistent, fully and accurately express the author's ideas, the text is characterized by precision and readability, behind which lies a rich linguistic and written culture, as well as the ability to formulate and express the positions of the author, which create prerequisites for independent thoughts and ideas.

2.3. In terms of content, the following essential characteristics of the study are outlined:

a) despite its „historicity“ and focus on economic, social and political processes, it is resolved through the prism of their importance for the security of the emerging Bulgarian nation. Thus, the analysis focuses on those goals and results that are „significant“ in the construction, and later in the management of self-defense and state-building Bulgarian nationalism.

b) the dissertation follows a coherent logical structure. It begins with a trace of the formation of nations and nationalisms in the New Age in Europe, traces the course of this process in the Balkans and „ends“ with the consideration of its „late“ realization in the Bulgarian ethnic land. It is important here that the author manages to „jump over“ the simple chronology and thus bring out the main „driving mechanisms“ in the various stages in the development of the Bulgarian nation and the Bulgarian self-defense and progressive nationalism, to outline their features and point out their specifics in comparison with other Balkan nations and nationalisms in the late 18th to late 19th centuries.

c) Another important point is the fact that L. Manolov at the end of each paragraph and each chapter draws „conclusions“ from the analysis, which not only summarize what is said in the research, but also serve as a basis for „transition“ to the study in the next part.

On this basis, Lyuben Manolov reaches the central and well-argued position of the dissertation "that early, self-defense Bulgarian nationalism should be seen as a gradually forming, new, independent and comprehensive system of positive thoughts, feelings, emotions and style of political behavior." This nationalism has the historical role of the political process, which is "the effective, practical protection of the Bulgarian spiritual and ethnic space from foreign encroachments", It is carried out even when projects for autonomous self-government or the building of an independent Bulgarian state are being developed, "without any claims for any domination over other peoples and foreign territories."

2.4. It should be especially emphasized that the analysis in the dissertation is distinguished by its „attachment“ to the questions of the „meaning“ of the emerging Bulgarian nationally responsible political thinking and the content of the Bulgarian national question. On this basis, Lyuben Manolov reaches the central and well-argued position of the dissertation „that early, self-defense Bulgarian nationalism should be seen as a gradually forming, new, independent and comprehensive system of positive thoughts, feelings, emotions and style of political behavior“. This nationalism has the historical role of the political process which is „the effective, practical protection of the Bulgarian spiritual and ethnic space from foreign encroachments“. It is carried out even when developing projects for autonomous self-government or building an independent Bulgarian state, „without any claims to any and to be a domination over other peoples and foreign territories.“ Thus Manolov came to the derivation and development of the second main „story“ line in his study - the delineation of „the boundary between the enlightened, self-defense and constructive nationalism of a people living in conditions of foreign, assimilative political power and aggressive, chauvinistic gigantization of „national superiority“ among nations inhabiting their own, free states“, and consistently and with the presentation of a number of arguments and historical facts, the essential difference between the self-defense nationalism of the young Bulgarian nation formed in the Ottoman Empire and the aggressive, conquering nationalisms of the neighboring (Greek and Serbian) free Balkan national states is emerging.

### **3. Critical notes, recommendations and questions about the dissertation.**

I have no significant critical remarks on the reviewed dissertation.

I would recommend L. Manolov in the eventual publication of the dissertation, which it certainly deserves, to expand the analysis by supplementing it with, albeit brief, assessment of the nature, content and perspectives of contemporary Bulgarian and Balkan nationalisms.

In connection with the recommendation, I have the following question to the author: Does he think that in modern conditions the existence of constructive Bulgarian nationalism is possible? And if so - what would be its main manifestations and results?

### **III. Conclusion.**

In conclusion of this opinion I will point out that the merits of the dissertation „Revival nationalism and guaranteeing the security of Bulgarian society during the collapse of the Ottoman Empire (70s of the XVIII - 80s of the XIX century)“ and the results achieved in it, give me grounds to propose to the esteemed scientific jury to award to its author Lyuben Georgiev Manolov the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the professional field 9.1. National Security.

11.12.2020

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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