

REVIEW

by Professor Radoslav Zahariev Mishev, Doctor of Historical Sciences, member of the Scientific Jury in the competition for the academic position "Associate Professor", announced by the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" in "State Gazette", no. 65 of July 28, 2023, p. 48, field of higher education 2. Humanities, professional direction 2.2 History and Archeology, scientific specialty "New and Recent History (including History of the Balkan peoples)".

Candidate data: Petar Stoyanov Parushev was admitted to the announced competition for Associate Professor as the only candidate. Petar Parushev was born on July 18, 1973 in the city of Burgas, where he completed primary and secondary education. From 1991 to 1996, he studied Balkan Studies at the Faculty of History of "St. Cyril and St. Methodius" University Of Veliko Tarnovo and graduated as a master. Along with that, he studied a second major in Library Science and Bibliography at the same university. From 2002 to 2004, he was a doctoral student at the Institute of Balkan Studies at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences with a dissertation topic "The Cyprus Question 1960 – 1974 and Bulgaria". He successfully defended it in 2008, for which he was awarded PhD. After working as a teacher and Head of the Department of Culture in the Municipality of Burgas, in 2010-2011 he was a part-time teacher at "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" University in the Faculty of Social Sciences, Department of History and Philosophy in the same city. From 2011 to 2013, he was an Assistant Professor in the same department, and in 2013 he received title "Chief Assistant Professor".

Description and analysis of the deposited historical works: The scientific interests of Chief Assistant Professor P. Parushev are focused on New and Recent History, History of the Balkan peoples, foreign policy and diplomacy, national issues in the Balkans, crises, conflicts and wars and the Cyprus issue. Petar Parushev has submitted a list of publications, as well as copies of the works themselves, for participation in the competition, including 1 monograph "Bosnian Crisis 1908 - 1909, Great Powers and Bulgaria", University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov", Burgas 2023, 294 pages, 2 studies and 30 articles. The first study "Bulgaria, Serbia and Greece in the politics of the European military political alliances (1908 - 1918) is the third chapter from "The European Unions, Bulgaria and the Balkans (1870 - 1918)", University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov", Burgas 2015 by Gita Yovcheva, Penka Peeva, Petar Parushev. The second study "Bosnian Crisis 1908 - 1909, Bulgaria and the Great Powers" – can be found in "Crises and

conflicts in Europe, Bulgaria and the Balkans from the end of the 19th to the end of the 20th century", University Publishing House "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov", Burgas. Of the articles, 13 examine problems of the Balkan Wars of 1912-1913, 6 of 2017, pp. 62-91. The Bosnian crisis, 5 of the First World War 1914-1918, 2 on the attitude of Burgas and the region to the Ilinden – Preobrazhensky Uprising of 1903, 1 on the fate of the Jews of Burgas, 1 on the accommodation and arrangement of refugees in Burgas in the late 1920s and early 30s of the 20th century, 1 on Bulgaria and the Albanian state 1912-1913 and 1 for the Balkan states between the rivalry and rapprochement 1908-1911. As can be seen in the research work of P. Parushev, the themes of the Balkan wars, the Bosnian crisis and the First World War are definitely predominant. We must also note the aspects of international relations. The colleague is also the author of the book "The Cyprus Question 1960 - 1974 and Bulgaria", University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov", Burgas 2023, 232 pp. It is based on an already protected dissertation for PhD and will not be commented on in the review, but I indicate it as a testimony to the overall work of P. Parushev.

The candidate submitted the monograph "Bosnian crisis 1908-1909, the Great Powers and Bulgaria", University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov", Burgas 2023, 294 pp. as a habilitation thesis. Colleague P. Parushev has focused on researching one of the most significant topics in Balkan history during the tense decade of the beginning of the 20th century. Although a large number of historical works within their focus have touched on various aspects of the crisis, the author has chosen an original approach to study the relationship between the Bosnian crisis – the Great Powers – Bulgaria in 1908 – 1909.

Structurally, the work is very well constructed with the author's research objectives in mind. It consists of an introduction, two chapters, each containing three paragraphs, a conclusion, documents and maps (7 in number), sources and literature. Sources include archival sources, published documents and newspapers, while literature emphasizes Bulgarian and foreign authors. In addition, there is a name index and a list of abbreviations - all 294 pp. The introduction practically combines the tasks of preface and introduction, motivating the scheme for examining the Bosnian crisis. It is specified that it is analyzed in the context of the declaration of independence of Bulgaria and on the other hand the reaction of the forces from the two coalitions – the Triple Alliance and the Entente. The lower and upper chronological limits of the study are also explained and fixed. The author accurately presents the subject of research in a synthesized form. He covers the background, outbreak,

development and resolution of the Bosnian crisis. Traditionally, the objectives of the research are highlighted – the development of the Bosnian crisis and its influence on the politics of Bulgaria. The historiographic reference clearly shows the state of research on the subject. The evidence base on which the monograph was developed is shown.

The first chapter, "The Young Turk coup of the summer of 1908 and deepening of the crisis in the Balkans" places three main emphasis. The first focuses on attempted constitutional reforms in the Ottoman Empire up to 1908. It draws attention to events in the Ottoman Empire in 1876 as a catalyst for the introduction of the constitution. It functioned for less than a year and Sultan Abdul Hamid II began to rule in an authoritarian manner. Colleague Parushev thoroughly analyzes the intentions of the Sultan and the reaction of the constitutional movement with the establishment of the "Ottoman Unity" organization on May 21, 1889 in Constantinople. The monograph describes the growth of the opposition movement, expressed in the formation of various organizations and circles together with the leading opposition leaders. A separate paragraph is devoted to the Young Turk coup of the summer of 1908, the attitude of the Great Powers and its echo in the Balkan capitals. The author well shows the failure of the Mürzstegg program as a whole and the meeting in Reval of the monarchs of Russia and Great Britain, which hastened the decision of the Young Turks to carry out a coup. Colleague Parushev accurately describes the Young Turk Revolution, distinguishing the festive excitement from the real actions of the Young Turks. The aim of the latter is the preservation of the empire and the removal of external interference, without autonomy for the subject nationalities. In parallel with this, a comparative analysis shows the similarities and differences between the Young Turk coup and the events of 1876. An important part of the paragraph is the precise and differentiated description of the attitude of the Great Powers and the Balkan states to the coup. The third part of the first chapter is devoted to the annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina by Austria-Hungary and the international crisis that broke out. Here the author in an analytical spirit reveals the reasons for the preparation and implementation of the annexation and the technology for its realization. In this part, the colleague has to deal with a rather complex task. The research process is multi-layered, developing multi – directional interstate contradictions and relations between Austria – Hungary and the Ottoman Empire, Austria – Hungary and Serbia, Austria – Hungary and Russia, Austria – Hungary and Bulgaria, the politics of other Balkan countries, the influences of the Great Powers and others. Each

position has been researched in detail and thoroughly based on a variety of evidentiary material. That is why the volume of the paragraph is large - 75 pages.

The second chapter "The Bosnian crisis and Bulgaria" examines the Bulgarian independence and the annexation crisis in parallel, the reflection of the crisis in the reports of the Bulgarian diplomats in Vienna and Belgrade and the Bosnian crisis in the pages of the "Priaporets" newspaper, an organ of the ruling Democratic Party at the time. The first emphasis of the second chapter examines the reactions of the Great Powers and rightly notes that none of them gave firm and clear support to Sofia, regardless of the personal gestures of some ambassadors and diplomats. The author very well shows the technology of Bulgarian diplomatic tactics after the Tarnovo Act – the permanent denial of agreement between Vienna and Sofia. The attempts of Serbia and Austria – Hungary to achieve an alliance with Bulgaria are also mentioned. It is interesting and correct to say that despite international difficulties, independence was proclaimed in a favorable international environment. The second paragraph of the second chapter "The annexation crisis in the reports of the Bulgarian diplomats in Vienna and Belgrade" reviews the reports of the Bulgarian diplomats in the capitals of two of the most interested countries. This gives the reader the opportunity to get acquainted with the "everyday" of diplomatic activity under the harsh conditions of international tension, including military, during the Bosnian crisis. It is known that these reports form the basis and help to make the relevant decisions in Sofia. Thirdly, in the second chapter, Parushev introduces us to the Bosnian crisis on the pages of the "Priaporets" newspaper. It is largely motivated by the fact that the paper is the organ of the ruling Democratic Party. In this way, the idea of the policy of the Malinov cabinet in 1908 – 1909 is enriched.

The conclusion is a logical conclusion of the presented monograph. In my opinion, the findings and conclusions made are acceptable. For example, the conclusion that Turkey is afraid of the consequences of Bulgarian independence, which may affect the future of the region of Macedonia, is correct. The fate of the Eastern Railways has also further fueled Turkish stubbornness in negotiations. Another important consequence of the crisis is that new trends in the development of international relations encouraged the Balkan states to enter into an alliance and start a war with the Ottoman Empire. I believe that the submitted monograph fully meets the high requirements for habilitation work.

The attached 2 studies illustrate the colleague's interests in international relations very well. The study "Bulgaria, Serbia and Greece in the politics of the European military political alliances (1908 - 1918) is in a volume of 55 pages. The author examines and analyzes the rivalry and attempts at rapprochement of the Balkan states, the wars in the Balkans in 1912-1913 as a prelude to the First World War and the role of Bulgaria in the world war. The study has a contributing character, as Parushev handles the complex and multi – layered matter admirably. The second study "Bosnian Crisis 1908 – 1909" examines the events during the Annexation Crisis, tracing its international aspects. The positions of the interested parties and the motives of their actions are very well highlighted. The study has a contributing character and is further developed in the solid habilitation thesis. The deposited articles show colleague's diverse scientific interests. In addition to the three main directions of the Balkan Wars, the Bosnian crisis and the First World War, it also touches on other historical aspects. Factual and theoretical scientific contributions are available. They show a permanent research orientation, an objectively serious part of them, logically develop further in the publication of monographs and studies. Petar Parushev has participated in 7 research projects, which further supports his research activity.

Scientific contributions. In my opinion, the main contributions of the presented habilitation thesis are expressed in the following directions: there are many documents and literature about the Bosnian crisis, which has a double meaning, since the availability of many sources makes it easier for the author, but it can also make it difficult. For me, my colleague Parushev did an excellent job with the task by choosing the right topic and writing a very good book. The theme was developed on the basis of serious evidence in Cyrillic and Latin. I especially want to emphasize the use of Turkish, Serbian and other authors. In this way, the colleague, through his demonstrated qualities and the evidentiary material, shows skills to research, analyze and draw relevant conclusions. A successful picture of the events during the Bosnian crisis has been created, which is multi – layered and multi – directional. Parushev makes an excellent and readable narrative of the events, often using comparative analyzes and other methods. With such topics, the emphasis is usually on expanding existing facts and especially supplementing and presenting new theses. The colleague has successfully coped with this task and presented a directly focused and comprehensive study of the Bosnian crisis. The comparisons between the events of 1876 and the Young Turk coup, the opinions about the consequences of the

Bosnian crisis, the arguments and statements about the positions of the great states, the Ottoman Empire and the Balkan countries, about the essence of the Young Turk coup, etc. are convincing. The candidate demonstrates very good and excellent qualities in the developed studies and articles. They contain factual and theoretical contributions. The descriptions, summaries, theses and conclusions set forth therein are acceptable.

Notes and recommendations. In view of Petar Parushev's future work, I will allow myself to make some recommendations. His efforts to be objective show well enough. At the same time, in my opinion, he should be more categorical in some aspects. For example, Bulgaria's international treaties during the wars of 1912-1918 were weak, especially for the Balkan War. The role of the attack in Kočani could be commented on more thoroughly. Also, the Bulgarian ruling elite, due to bias or incompetence, did not make an objective geopolitical assessment of the balance of power at the beginning of the First World War.

Educational activity. From 2010 to 2023, P. Parushev taught at "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" University, Burgas, leading lecture courses and seminars. Currently, P. Parushev leads lectures and seminars on "History of the Balkan Peoples", "Economic History", "Historiography", "History of Bulgaria 1878 - 1944", as well as practice in the "Moodle" electronic educational platform and virtual classrooms. Also his work is "Proclamation of Cypriot independence and establishment of diplomatic relations between People's Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Cyprus." He prepared a teaching aid for the discipline History of the Balkan Peoples. "The wars of the Ottoman Empire with Austria and Russia from the end of the 17th century to the end of the 19th century. Selected texts, documents and images", "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" University, 2023, as well as a textbook with selected sources for the history of the Balkan peoples in the period XV - XIX centuries, 2023. The colleague leads lecture courses and seminar classes at a high level. He participates actively and effectively in the teaching process. So far, there are two graduates, the defenses of 3 more are to come. He has also prepared 3 students for participation in conferences. Parushev fully meets the high requirements of "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" University Regulations for acquiring the academic position of "Associate Professor". In accordance with the legal requirements, the Indicators for the acquisition of the academic position "Associate Professor" and the Regulations of the University, 700 points are specified, and the candidate has scored 720. The candidate has submitted interesting and significant achievements of his research work. The results of his research work have an individual and original character. Based on the scientific

and teaching contributions highlighted so far, as well as in accordance with the requirements of the law and regulations, I believe that Chief Assistant Professor Petar Stoyanov Parushev, Ph.D., fully complies with the requirements of the announced competition.

Conclusion: Based on the scientific contributions and teaching qualities of the candidate highlighted so far, I believe that the scientific research activity and teaching skills of Chief Assistant Professor Petar Stoyanov Parushev, Ph.D., fully complies with the requirements of the announced competition and, in this sense, meets the legal requirements for occupying the academic position of "Associate Professor". Therefore, I give a positive review and suggest to the respected Scientific Jury to vote positively for the candidacy of Chief Assistant Professor Petar Stoyanov Parushev to occupy the academic position "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 2. Humanities, professional direction 2.2 history and archeology, scientific specialty "New and Recent history (including History of the Balkan peoples)" for the needs of Department of History and Philosophy of the Faculty of Social Sciences at "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" University, Burgas.

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V. Tarnovo