SOFIA UNIVERSITY "ST. KLIMENT OHRIDSKI"

REVIEW

**of the submitted works for participation in a competition for the academic position of ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, announced by Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski” in the field 2.2 History and Archeology (New Bulgarian History (1878-1944)) - Armed resistance in Bulgaria, in the scientific field History of State and Law (1878-1944) published in the State Gazette, issue 96 of 19 November 2021.**

Reviewer: Professor, Doctor of Historical Sciences Milko St. Palangurski

The candidate Chief Assistant Dr. Vladimir Georgiev Stanev has graduated with master's degree in 1997 and in 2003 has defended his history dissertation for the following topic: "Inter-Allied Military Control in Bulgaria 1920-1927". Since 2001 he has been a lecturer at the Faculty of Economics at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”. According to the requirements of the Higher Education Act, the candidate has the necessary scientometric indicators:

**The habilitation thesis is the monograph THE NOISE FROM THE CRANNIES AND THE BALKANS. THE PARTISANS IN BULGARIA (1941 - 1944).** S.,"St. Kliment Ohridski”, 2022, ISBN 978-954-07-5337-9, e-ISBN 978-954-07-5338-6 1. The monograph is an attempt to fully explore all aspects of the process in native history, which predetermines the progress of the country in the second half of the twentieth century and helps to outline the geostrategic direction of the national development. The author aims to analyze the characteristics of the guerrillas in the country, with emphasis on the structure and organization of the movement, its ideological orientation with an attempt to form an acceptable periodization of the movement in a regional aspect, by showing the characteristics of the ruling regime and the international ties of the armed resistance.

The author sets on a mission to finally resolve the perpetually politicized dispute over the number and casualties of the partisans, the leader’s accountability for the human losses and to portray which ones do not correspond historically to the truth and are mainly politically motivated. Undoubtedly, an important task is to study the mechanisms of the propaganda machine after the 9 of September which aims to impose a completely one-sided image of the guerrillas in the public space.

The theory that the partisan movement is developing, pulsating, strengthening, attenuating and accelerating its presence in accordance with the events on the Eastern Front is well maintained. The assumptions about the expansion of the guerrilla movement after the summer of 1943 and the beginning of the political crisis with the death of Tsar Boris III are reasonable. The analysis shows that in the Bulgarian case it is a question of political and geostrategic activity for the conquest of the country by the USSR. The partisan movement is seen as part of the state policy and the text itself has contributed to the political history of the Kingdom.

The candidate has also published a book based on the above-mentioned dissertation. The activity of the treaty bodies for control over the implementation of the military clauses of the peace treaty is described in details. The analysis of the ties with the state, local authorities, and society is a scientific contribution that shows how the controlling authorities impose the contract.

The author has enough articles and studies. Some of the articles are devoted to the revolutionary organization in Macedonia and two main problems in particular - why every revolutionary organization neglects human rights, corruption and even morality, and why after the coup of May 19, 1934 the organization was not banned immediately. Two articles show the role of lawyers as a professional guild - the only guild that did a boycott during World War II and did not comply with the emergency legislation. Other articles are dedicated to the Balkan Federation and the typology of conflicts in the development of the peninsula in modern times. V. Stanev has an undisguised interest for the moments that determine the future of the country in the long run. He tries to answer how the most important decisions are made in events such as the Ilinden–Preobrazhenie and September uprisings. There are several studies in the field of the habilitation work, and others are devoted to the waqf issue and show the clash of the secular state with the inherited practices of the Sharia.

The presented citations for review cover the whole vector of the possibilities allowed by law - 13. V. Stanev also has a textbook that is used in the school network.

**CONCLUSION**

The peer-reviewed works show that Chief Assistant Dr. Vl. Stanev is a scientist who has his own scientific style, with very clear and well-defined areas of research, consistent with his professional specialization, with very good methodological training and with a correct attitude to the source material and the achievements of historiography. The conclusions, analyzes and the concerned source material are personal creativity and contribution of the author with regards to the achievements of the historiographical process. The new assessments and those on the topics he studies have their deserved place in the scientific space.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize that the presented research work gives me a reason to say that after the defense of his dissertation, the participant in the competition continued his research activities, focusing on a new field of research. The presented scientific papers fully cover the requirements of the Higher Education Act, as the points in the attached scientometric table are completely real and meet the legal requirements for individual groups. All this gives me full confidence to vote positively for the academic position of "Associate Professor" of Assistant Professor. Dr. Vladimir Georgiev Stanev on the announced competition of the Faculty of History of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski ”.

Professor, Doctor of Historical Sciences Milko St. Palangurski