

Statement for the

DISSERTATION

"RESPONSIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY OF THE EXECUTIVE POWER IN
COUNTERING TERRORISM IN BULGARIA, GREAT BRITAIN AND GERMANY IN THE
PERIOD 2009-2020."

of doctoral student *Bianka Bogoevska*

by Prof. Dr. Tatiana Dronzina

I allow myself to start with the statement that this is one of the most systematized and talentedly written dissertations that I have ever read. Therefore, at the very beginning, I would like to congratulate the PhD student and her supervisor. The combination of political science and legal knowledge carried out in the framework of their joint work, in addition to proving remarkably fruitful, also resulted in the composition of a concise, meaningful, scholarly text within the framework of about 65,000 words, which reveals maturity and consistency characteristic rather of the later stages of the development of young researchers.

Reading the text, one realizes that behind this dissertation research is an extremely disciplined and consistent mind, which not only outlined the contours of the dissertation, but filled it with a rich content, implying the familiarity and processing of a huge volume of material.

This dissertation is distinguished by the following merits:

- She demonstrates knowledge of a vast amount of legal matter - laws, practice and case studies. This is about three countries, such as Bulgaria, England and Germany, with a number of similarities, but also with significant differences, as indicated by the author herself.
- Bianka did not limit herself to listing and analyzing the relationship between them, but subjected all items to a political analysis, situating them within the framework of the specific political system, tradition and context.

- Acknowledging the challenges that research faces, Bianca strives to limit their negative impact as much as possible. And where it is not possible, she has indicated the paths along which such research should proceed in the future - a larger number of countries, a longer period of time, etc.

- In the initial part of the dissertation, the main research question, the main research hypotheses are formulated, and the explanatory framework of the study, composed of two theories, is also outlined. Their wording is correct, clear, consistent, and the hypotheses are fully provable within the framework of this genre - dissertation research.

- The main hypothesis is the following: in all three countries, not only is no additional militarization of democracy observed, but even the opposite – paradoxically, the crisis of 2015 appears as an immediate impetus for a more responsible and more accountable executive power in comparison to the period 2009-2014. This, according to the author, is due to the changed role of courts and parliaments.

- Within the framework of the political and legal context, certain cases and their resolutions are examined, and the jurisprudence of some courts in the three countries is also reviewed.

- A good impression is made by the purposeful use of statistics - they are brought to support certain statements and positions, rather than in a self-serving and detached way, as it often happens.

- The chapters dedicated to the three case studies follow a single plan, and the comparison is made according to pre-made criteria that are the same for the three countries. This comparative study has given the author the opportunity to make her conclusions, which have found a place at the end of the work. This is one of my few critical observations and it has to do with the conclusion. Such extensive exposition and re-use of statistics is not very typical of a work of this nature. First, because it makes the conclusion unduly long, and second, because in this extensive text, the assessment of whether or not the main research hypotheses have been justified is somehow lost.

- The literature used is huge in volume, primary sources, especially from the field of legislation, are predominant, but together with them, modern analytical sources that have appeared in recent

years can be seen. This gives me reason to assert that the doctoral student knows the main positions in the academic debate perfectly and navigates them without problems.

Considering the above, I strongly recommend the esteemed jury to make a decision to award the doctoral student the scientific degree "Doctor of Political Science".

Prof. HabilDr Tatyana Dronzina

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