**REVIEW

By Prof. VESELIN KOSTOV YANCHEV, PhD
Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski”**

for the materials submitted for participation in a competition for the academic position of "Associated Professor" in a professional field 2.2. History and archeology (New Bulgarian history (1878-1944 – Armed Resistance in Bulgaria 1941-1944), for the needs of Faculty of History at the Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”,
published in the State Gazette (issue 96 of November 19, 2021)

Documents for participation in the competition were submitted only by Chief Assistant PhD Vladimir Georgiev Stanev.

Vladimir Stanev graduated in 1997 with honors with a master's degree in history and specialization in History of Bulgaria at the Faculty of History of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". Since 2001 he has been a part-time assistant at the Department of History of Bulgaria. In 2003 he defended his doctoral thesis on "Inter-Allied Military Control in Bulgaria 1920-1927." He has been Senior assistant since 2006 and Chief Assistant since 2007.

For 20 years Dr. Vl. Stanev leads seminars, lectures and specialized courses in New Bulgarian History. He established himself as a competent lecturer, active participant and promoter of scientific activities at the Faculty of History and within the University. He took part in prestigious scientific national and international conferences and in 13 scientific projects. His research work is presented in 3 monographs, 11 studies and 21 articles.

For the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" the candidate presents a scientific paper that not only covers but significantly exceeds the minimum national requirements (400 points) under the current Law on Academic Development of the Republic of Bulgaria - 540 points.

23 publications, of which 2 monographs, 9 studies, 11 articles, 1 textbook are presented for review by the scientific jury. These work do not reproduce the ones presented for obtaining the educational and scientific degree “PhD".

The works can be divided into 5 categories:

*1. Publications related to the doctoral thesis*

These include an article published in 2004 and the 2018 monograph "Inter-Allied Military Control in Bulgaria 1920-1927." The works present and study, for the first time, a practically unexplored problem - the institutional and practical actions of the winners of the WWI to implement the military clauses of the Neuilly Peace Treaty and the opposition by the Bulgarian military and civilian authorities.

*2. Publications dedicated to the institutional building and functioning of the Bulgarian state*

These are the studies and articles dealing with disputed or poorly studied issues related to: the amendment of Art. 17 of the Tarnovo Constitution; the overall policy of the Bulgarian state regarding the problem of ownership of the waqif properties until 1913; the cultural heritage until 1989; the Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization in 1934.

*3. Publications dedicated to personalities, events and organizations*

In three articles, Dr. Stanev revised the assessment of the Prime Minister Al. Tsankov regarding the activity of the IMRO and the way the decision was made for the outbreak of a national (1903) and a party uprising (1923). Two of his publications are dedicated to the Supreme Bar Council and the role of lawyers in rescuing Bulgarian Jews.

*4. Publications dedicated to "Balkan" issues*

In three articles Dr. Stanev studies modern Bulgarian history problems from the Balkans perspective.

These publications impress with their thematic diversity, wide chronological and geographical scope, non-traditional but responsible approach. Some of them are co-authored, which testifies to the high competence of Vl. Stanev and his team work ability.

*5. Publications dedicated to the guerrilla movement*

For about 10 years, with enviable consistency and perseverance, Dr. Stanev has been concentrating his research on the topic of the Bulgarian guerrilla movement during the Second World War. After the publication of five studies, he published the monograph "The Sounds of the Forests and the Hills. The Partisans in Bulgaria (1941 - 1944)”, which is also his main habilitation work.

Within 1,192 pages, the author aims to study the emergence, development, strategic goals, numbers and victims of the guerrilla movement. The study is based on extensive use of archives, published documents, memoirs, diaries, scientific literature and Internet sources.

The author demonstrates a strict scientific approach, impartiality and striving for maximum objectivity.

As a result of his efforts, there is the first modern and comprehensive history of the guerrilla movement in Bulgaria, including its emergence, organization, leadership and events, stages of development. The role of Moscow and other external factors in the development of the movement has been revealed. A number of myths about the partisan movement have been debunked - about its uniqueness, about being part of the European resistance, about its anti-fascist character, about "people's fighters" as superhumans and the nation's elite, etc. The conclusion comes that this movement was a manifestation of the internal political conflict after June 22, 1941 and the aim of the Bulgarian Communist Party to seize power - part of the Soviet Union’s strategic interest.

After a detailed study of the documentation and precise calculations, the author came to the conclusion that the number of guerrillas in Bulgaria is about 8000, of whom between 1,200 and 1,400 died.

Stanev poses and considers issues that have not been the subject of research so far - human losses as a result of mistakes of guerrilla leaders, internal executions, suicides.

The habilitation work of Dr. Vl. Stanev is a logical, well-argued and encyclopedic study of the problem of the Bulgarian partisans, written in a high style but fascinating and readable. The work is original, of high scientific value and significance, without any evidence of plagiarism.

Given the high teaching and research qualities and skills of Dr. Vl. Stanev I am fully convinced that he meets the highest requirements for the competitive academic position of "Associate Professor", field of higher education 2.2. History and archeology (New Bulgarian history) (1878 - 1944).

**February 20, 2022 Reviewer:**

**Prof. Dr. Veselin Yanchev**