

## OPINION

under the procedure for acquisition of

Doctor of Science degree

By Assoc. Dr. Martin Ivanov Ivanov

Dissertation topic: Swimming against the tide: Bulgarian textile crafts and their growth into a factory industry, 1800-1912

in a professional domain 3.1. Sociology, anthropology and cultural sciences (sociology)

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The opinion was prepared by: Prof. Dr. Rumen Donchev Daskalov (05.11.01 - Sociology; 05.08.33 - Theory and history of culture), New Bulgarian University, in my capacity as a member of the scientific jury, according to Order № RD-38-147 / 15.3.2021 of the Rector of Sofia University.

The dissertation contains 502 pages and consists of an introduction, three chapters, a conclusion and twelve appendices with a large number of tables and diagrams. The presented bibliography contains an impressive number of 1098 titles.

I have known Assoc. Prof. Martin Ivanov for many years and I am familiar with some of his works, such as the Bulgarian foreign debt under socialism and on the accelerated economic development and modernization in Bulgaria until World War II. I am also familiar with his attempt to establish relationships and interrelations between companies after November 10, 1989 based on commercial registers and the State Gazette. I have listened to his talks at conferences and public presentations, for example, when together with Prof. Rumen Avramov they conducted a seminar on economic history at the "Red House" for Debates.

The presented dissertation on the transition from textile crafts to factory industry from the time after the Crimean War 1853-1856 to the Wars has a number of strengths and contains significant scientific achievements. First of all, I would like to note the use of quantitative methods, in itself very rarely practiced in this country, not only because of the required statistical skills, but also because of the haste to present a text for career purposes. However, Martin Ivanov applies these methods with enviable skill, patience and methodological rigor. It should be especially emphasized that the data were not available in advance, but were collected with Sisyphean labor, as they were scattered in hundreds of documents of various kinds: from professional publications to memoirs.

As for the results achieved, they are many and significant. For example, the author corrects our idea of the first Bulgarian factories, which turn out to be of the hybrid type, i.e. only some of the activities were mechanized, while others were done manually and even at home, as handicrafts. He also corrected opinions that Bulgarian crafts declined under Ottoman rule due to external capitalist competition. In fact, Martin Ivanov presents a complex economic picture of the last decades under Ottoman rule and of alternating recessions after the Union between Principedom Bulgaria and Eastern Rumelia, followed by a recovery after the first years of the 20th century and even overtaking the previous peak of 1870. Meanwhile, and somehow below the surface, factories were being established, increasingly displacing domestic crafts, therefore an industrialization occurred. It also turns out that the attempts to replace the decaying braiding with carpet weaving after the Liberation were not very successful. The most significant result consists in demonstrating a very curious development in Bulgaria in the production of textiles toward industrialization, unnoticed by other authors and contrary to what usually happens in third world countries ("periphery") with the invasion of Western industrial competition, namely - deindustrialization and agrarianization. Extremely interesting are the explanations for this Bulgarian phenomenon, which again deviate from explanations of other authors, such as Palaret, by emphasizing the geographical factor and poor communications, which offered some protection against external competition. In an ironic way (contradicting Palaret), the labor force in the foothills was protected from the temptation to descend to the fertile plains and start farming, due to the high cost of transporting the grain to places of export.

The scholarly works of the candidate fully meet (and, in fact, far exceed) the minimum national requirements (under Art. 2b, para. 2 and 3 of ZRASRB), as well as the additional requirements of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" for obtaining the educational and scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences" in the scientific field and professional domain of the procedure. The results presented by the candidate in the dissertation thesis and other scientific works do not repeat those of previous procedures for acquiring a scientific title and academic position. There is no legally proven plagiarism in the submitted dissertation and scientific papers on this procedure.

The presented summary meets all the requirements for such a synthesis and adequately reflects the content and results of the dissertation. The conclusions are formulated very clearly and precisely.

I have no critical remarks on the reviewed works. If I start with the secondary literature, it is more than impressive, as evidenced by the huge number of cited works. The issues are interesting and intriguing and complement or correct the existing state of the scientific field. The methodology is well thought out and fully relevant to the problems under study. Quantitative analyzes, conducted with enviable patience, depth, and methodological rigor are detailed and precise and leave nothing more to be done. Hence, the results are comprehensive and accurate.

After getting acquainted with the dissertation presented in the procedure and the accompanying scientific papers and based on the analysis of their significance and the scientific and scientific-applied contributions contained in them, I confirm that the dissertation and scientific publications to it, as well as the quality and originality of the results and achievements presented in them fully meet the requirements of ZRASRB, the Regulations for its application and the respective Regulations of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" for acquisition by the candidate of the scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences" in the scientific field of sociology and professional field 3.1. Sociology, anthropology and cultural sciences (sociology). In particular, the candidate satisfies the national requirements far above the minimum and above the

average in the professional field and no plagiarism has been established in the scientific papers submitted at the competition.

Based on the above, with full conviction in the qualities of the work and of the candidate, I recommend the scientific jury to award Assoc. Martin Ivanov the scientific degree "Doctor of Science" in the field of sociology, professional field 3.1. Sociology, anthropology and cultural sciences (sociology).

20. 4. 2021.

The opinion was prepared by:  
Prof. Dr. Rumen Daskalov