STATEMENT

For the nomination of Assistant Professor Dr. Vladimir Stanev, the only participant in the competition for "Associate Professor" at the 2.2. History and Archaeology (New Bulgarian History (1878 - 1944) - Armed Resistance in Bulgaria 1841 - 1944), announced for the needs of the Faculty of Arts at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" in SG no. 96 of 19. XI. 2021.

From Assoc. Todor Popnedelev - Department of History of Bulgaria, Faculty of History - Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"

The only participant in the competition for associate professor prof. as. Dr. Vladimir Stanev began his teaching work at the Faculty of History - Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" in 2001 and went through the following positions - in 2006 senior assistant, from 2007 senior assistant and until today. I emphasize that he went through all these degrees, accumulating a great teaching experience and erudition to work with students. This is clearly evident from the attached reference of his classroom employment. For many years Dr. Stanev has been giving lecture courses to history students in New Bulgarian History (Hons.) and to students in History and Geopolitics of the Balkans (R.Hons.), as well as seminars in the same discipline in History, History and Geopolitics of the Balkans and Ethnology. He also teaches a lecture course on "The National Movement of the Bulgarians in the 20th c. " for full-time and part-time students. For the last three academic years, the candidate has also been teaching the seminar classes of history students in "Bulgarian Historiography", a discipline of which I am the holder and I dare to express my satisfaction with his professional work. Dr. Stanev also teaches three courses in the Faculty's graduate programs.

In the research presented for the competition (monographs, studies and articles) by Dr. Stanev, several research centers are imposed. I will focus on only three of them. One is undoubtedly related to the candidate's teaching work and clarifies features and processes of the national movement of Bulgarians for liberation and unification in the 20th century. These include: '**Some aspects of the extra-revolutionary activity of the IMRO from the recollections of participants'; 'The 'UNSUITABLE' action: the nineteen niners against the IMRO in the assessments of contemporaries and of historiography'; and '1903 and 1923, or how the decision to revolt was made'.**

In them, one is impressed by the author's objective view in painting a realistic picture of the movement's goals and the means to achieve them, without sparing some black strokes caused by various factors.

Another important issue, related to some of the consequences for Bulgaria of the First World War and the severe restrictions imposed on it by the Paris Peace Conference, is also the subject of research by Dr. Stanev. He finds his reasoned exposition in the monograph **The Inter-Allied Military Control in Bulgaria (1920-1927)** and the article . **"Inter-Allied Military Control and the Disarmament of the Civilian Population after the First World War".** In these the candidate gives a comprehensive account of the long work of the Allied commissions in Bulgaria on war restrictions , and of the resistance of the rulers of the kingdom and the ordinary population.

Undoubtedly, the research presented for the competition has fully addressed the topic of armed resistance in Bulgaria in the period 1941 - 1944. Dr. Stanev's deep interest in the issue is evident here. He has approached it in accordance with the best traditions of Bulgarian historiography - a study of various aspects of the topic in articles and finally a summarizing monograph - **THE NOISE OF FOREST AND THE BALKANS. PARTISANS IN BULGARIA (1941-1944).** Sofia. Kliment Ohridski, 2022.

The research is built on rich and mostly unused archival material. It critically introduces the voluminous literature on the issue published in the country before 1989, which was circulated by "Partyzdat" with the desire to build the image of the "anti-fascist resistance" in the country. A large body of scholarly literature on various aspects of the issue is also analysed.

One of the main merits of the work is that for the first time in our historiography this topic is placed in the context of our national history, in accordance with the changing balance of forces in the Second World War, depending on the policies of Moscow, the leadership of the BRP (K.) and the urges of individuals to participate in the movement. This approach enabled the candidate to establish realistically the creation and organisation of the partisan movement, its stages and its scope, and the real aims of this armed form of resistance. The reaction of the state, its structures and their effectiveness on the course of the guerrilla movement has been correctly established. It is a merit of the monograph that the author also provides a thorough review of the heroic image of the partisans built after 1944 and the efforts to include it as an essential part of our national memory.

Dr. Stanev's entire study gives the most complete picture of the partisan movement in historiography to date. The author has also managed to "peep" into human nature, the morality of the participants in the movement and their opponents, which gives the desired completeness in such a scientific study.

In conclusion, I would like to point out that the presented scientific works of Dr. Stanev are his personal work and cannot raise any suspicion of plagiarism. He has fully met the national scientific metric requirements. With full confidence, I recommend to the esteemed members of the scientific jury to award to Assistant Prof. Dr. Vladimir Stanev the scientific position of Associate Professor. He fully deserves it.

Assoc. Prof. Todor Popnedelev