

SOFIA UNIVERSITY "ST. KLIMENT OHRIDSKI"

REVIEW

of the submitted works for participation in the competition for the academic position of ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, announced by SU "St. Kliment Ohridski" in PH 2.2 History and Archaeology ((New History - History of Great Britain in the 19th century) - one, for the needs of the Faculty of Arts, promulgated in the State Gazette, issue 24 of 17 March 2023.

Reviewer. Prof. Borislav Gavrilov

Candidate. Dr. Lyubomir Tsvetanov Krastev

1. Brief biographical details of the applicant

Lyubomir Krastev was born on 21 December 1988. He graduated from the Bachelor's Program in History (New General History) at the Faculty of History of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". From 2011 to 2013 he participated in the Master's programme "Crises, Conflicts and Diplomacy in World Politics of the 16th-20th Centuries" at the Department of New and Contemporary History, Sofia University "St. Kliment Kliment". In 2013 he graduated with the degree of Master of Arts. In the period 2013-2017 he worked as an expert at the Digitization Center at the Faculty of Arts; 2014-2017 he was a visiting assistant professor of New (General) History; Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". From 2017 - till now he is a senior assistant professor of Modern History; Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", Faculty of Arts, Department of New and Contemporary History. In 2017 he submitted his PhD thesis on the topic "Napoleon Bonaparte in British Public Opinion"; 2019-2021 he was a postdoctoral fellow at the Faculty of History with researches on: "The British

between Francophobia and Russophobia on the Eve and During the Crimean War" and "The Eastern Question in Queen Victoria's Diaries during the Crimean War Years."

Leaving for a moment the formal tone of the review I would like to share that the whole career of Lyubomir Krastev - from the bachelor's degree, through the master's degree and the doctoral degree (of which I am one of the reviewers), passed before my eyes and, I am tempted to say, with my modest participation.

Characteristics of the candidate's scientific and applied output . The publications submitted for review are two monographs, published articles, studies and reports, in peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes. Appendix 10C (Publications selected specifically for the competition contains 14 publications).

In accordance with the requirements the candidate has the following science metrics:

GROUP A. Dissertation for the award of educational and scientific degree "Doctor" - **50 points.**

GROUP B. A published monograph, submitted as a major habilitation thesis, "Palmerston's War. Britain, the Crimean War and the Balance of Power". University Press "St. ISBN 978-954-07-5619-6 - **100 points.**

Group D. Published papers in refereed and non-refereed journals - **280 points.**

Group E. Citations: in refereed and non-refereed publications - **135 points.**

In total, the scientific metrics for the candidate's scientific and applied production indicate **565 points.**

In reviewing the thesis, I must stress that, as a researcher, the topics of international relations in the nineteenth century, the role of Britain and the study of public opinion have long been of scholarly interest to me. My PhD, back in 1989, was on 'The Wars of German Reunification and British Public Opinion'.

The subject of this monograph is the role of the British politician Lord Palmerston in the Crimean War. Palmerston's involvement in the events surrounding the war represents one of the important aspects of the conflict between the West and Russia in 1853-1856. In the period between the Congress of Vienna and the First World War, the Crimean War emerged as the largest military clash on the Old Continent, which revised the existing system of international relations. The Crimean War also occupies a complex place in British history, and Palmerston's policies are of interest as he emerges as a competent leader with a decisive involvement in the war.

The research is based on a wide and varied source material. Of great value are the documents from the various British archives. To elucidate the topic proposed here, documents from the British National Archives (BNA), the Royal Archives (RA) - most notably the diaries of Queen Victoria; the archive of the Templer Science Centre at the National Army Museum, Chelsea (NAM); and the manuscript collection of the British National Library (BL), in which documents relating to the negotiations at the 1856 Congress of Paris take a leading place.; the London Metropolitan Archives (LMA); parliamentary debates through the published stenographic diaries of the British Parliament; letters of officers and soldiers, diaries and memoirs, as this can more accurately portray the real picture of the war, as well as the printed press and its reports and publications from the time of the Crimean War

In my opinion, the main contribution of the monograph Palmerston's War... lies in the attraction of unpublished documents from several British archives,

which enrich the existing knowledge on the subject of the Crimean War. Secondly, the attempt to interpret the conflict through the prism of Palmerston's personality, which, with some qualifications, has not been done before, should be pointed out. In the context of Bulgarian historical scholarship, *Palmerston's War...* offers a kind of narrative of the Crimean War that is of interest to those concerned with Bulgarian history in this period as well as with the political development of the Balkans and the Ottoman Empire. Above all, however, the Bulgarian reader can become acquainted with the colourful picture of British political, social and economic life in those turbulent years and gain a deeper insight into the historical development of Britain and its important place in the development of historical processes throughout the world, including the Balkan Peninsula.

The second monograph (Appendix 2), which is included in the publications for the competition, is entitled *Napoleon Bonaparte in British Public Opinion, 1796-1815* University Press, St. Kliment Ohridski, 2023. It is based on a dissertation of the same title defended in 2017.

As the author himself notes, a historical work that deals with events of such great antiquity can hardly claim to make original contributions. Especially when it concerns one of the most studied personalities (Napoleon). But the themes related to the study of the relationship between politics, media and public opinion are particularly relevant today, and this gives the work not only significance but also a marked topicality. The question of the construction of positive or negative perceptions of certain personalities is particularly topical, since the mechanisms for doing so today are no different from those applied at the beginning of the nineteenth century.

The main purpose of the study is to examine British sentiment towards Napoleon Bonaparte from the time of his first campaign in Italy until his exile in 1815.

In order to achieve the set objectives, the dissertation uses the methods of historical analysis, drawing not only on official documents, but also on those of a more informal nature necessary for the study of public attitudes. The richness of the source base reflects a desire to cover, as far as possible, all possible types of documents relevant to British public opinion of Napoleon. Official documents take a leading place, the most important of these being the stenographic diaries of the House of Commons and the House of Lords. Another group of documents of an official nature concerns the treason and libel trials in Britain. Material from the trials of Napoleon's supporters and the Radical Republicans reveal many significant and unexplored aspects of British public opinion regarding the French Emperor. The indictments and testimonies, the defences of the accused and their lawyers, present an unknown but very important part of public attitudes not reflected in other sources. The retrieval and analysis of these documents is among the most significant contributions of this dissertation. Mention should also be made here of the analysis of the cartoons, which form an important part of the source material on the subject, as they characterise the English people's vision of Bonaparte. The works of caricaturists such as James Gillray, Charles Williams and George Cruickshank are analysed.

The main body of the source base naturally concerns the periodical press. More than thirty newspapers and magazines with national and local distribution are examined. Aware of the peculiarities of this type of source material, the author rightly notes that newspapers hardly reveal with accuracy the actual public opinion, but they set the tone of the discussion and their suggestions have a strong impact on the audience. It is through them that different viewpoints and positions can be discerned which to some extent reflect the current picture of public sentiment.

Not omitted are documents from the personal correspondence of British politicians, intellectuals and public figures, which reveal important aspects of Napoleon's image that are missing from official documents, the press or pamphlets. As the dissertator very aptly notes, these types of documents reveal the perspective of the elite without the editorial interference of the publisher or the censoring activities of the government. Their involvement is therefore important and contributes to the thesis's points of contribution: firstly, the analysis and assessment of the role of censorship, 'press restriction' laws, and Pitt's measures against pro-French Britons in shaping public opinion. The analysis of documents from the court cases is paramount here. These primary sources are used for the first time on the subject, and through them the picture of public attitudes towards Napoleon and sentiment in Britain is greatly enriched.

Secondly, I must place the detailed review of the periodical press in the country, including more than thirty newspapers and magazines. In addition to the major London publications, provincial newspapers are also included in the thesis. Many of these have not been within the scope of previous research.

Third comes the outlining of the great importance of pro-French sentiment and the significant number of Napoleonic supporters in Britain. This is a thesis that has not found a place in the scholarly literature to date, but the available sources clearly reveal this important trend in British society. In analysing the role of French émigrés in Britain and the imprint they left on British perceptions of the French emperor, a number of unexamined archival documents have been brought into scholarly circulation.

GROUP D. Published papers in refereed and non-refereed journals - 280 points.

The third publication (Appendix 3) submitted for evaluation is a study on "The Smallpox Epidemic and the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-1871" (Yearbook of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", vol. 104., 2019.) The significance of the smallpox epidemic, which spread among the French troops immediately before and during the conflict, for the defeat of France is examined. This is a little-known aspect of the Franco-Prussian War, and the author has definitely contributed to the elucidation of this neglected issue. The fourth publication (Appendix 4) deals with the management of the British Mandate in Palestine and examines the collaboration between a radical Zionist organisation and the Axis powers during the Second World War. The reasons for the formation of Mandate Palestine after the First World War are examined in order to highlight the frustration of some Zionists at the refusal of the British authorities to satisfy the establishment of an independent Jewish state (envisaged in the Balfour Declaration).

The next three publications (Appendix 5, 6 and 7) presented for consideration bring our attention back to different aspects and manifestations of epidemics in history. The first is "Cholera among Allied Troops during the Crimean War, 1853-1856. The article analyses valuable documents from British archives relating to the state of the navy and army at the time of the Crimean War. Particularly interesting are the accounts of the ship's surgeon William Smith. Also of a contributory nature are the accounts of the epidemic contained in Queen Victoria's diaries. The article also analyses the general significance of the cholera epidemic during the war and explores the relationship between communicable diseases and military campaigns. "Epidemics in the New Times and Lessons Learned" (Appendix 6) (In: Stanchev, K., Petrov, S. (eds) Public Governance after 2020: What do we know when we know nothing? Papers from the Fifth

International Conference on Public Administration, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", University Publishing House "St. Kliment Ohridski", Sofia. Kliment Ohridski University Press, 2022) is a paper aiming at an overview of the most vivid and remarkable manifestations of epidemics in the period from the Renaissance to the First World War on the Old Continent. The study is designed as an attempt to look for lessons from encounters with various infectious diseases in the past and how this affected politics, economics and societies in general. Popular epidemics such as the plague and smallpox are discussed, but attention is also given to diseases that arouse wonder today, such as the mysterious sweating fever, which disappears as suddenly as it appears. The article seeks to recreate the clash between science and cult beliefs, between the scientific approach of doctors and the quackery of "healers." Of a similar kind is the publication (Appendix 7) "Epidemics as Everyday Life in Early Modern Europe" (In: Georgieva, T., Simova, A. Krustev, L. (ed.) Early Modern Europe. Borders and contradictions. University Press "St. Kliment Ohridski, Sofia, 2022). The difference lies in the more in-depth treatment of the Early Modern period in particular and the emphasis on the transition between the Middle Ages and modernity.

The article on "The Crimean War in Queen Victoria's Diaries" (History Magazine, 2022, vol. XXX, no. 2) examines how British involvement in the war against Russia in the period 1854-1856 was recorded (Appendix 8). As one of the most informed monarchs of her time, Queen Victoria had a great deal of accurate information about current events during her long reign. This was fully true of the Crimean War era. Her notorious diaries, which have been the subject of a variety of scholarly works, cover a very wide variety of topics, but the article presented here is the first to pay particular attention to their coverage of the Crimean War. Again based on the same diaries, but using volumes from an earlier period, is the publication (Appendix 9) "The Visit of Emperor Nicholas I to Great Britain in

1844' (In: Georgieva, T., Baeva, I. (eds.) *Russia between East and West. Politics, Ideology, Diplomacy*. Collection in honour of Assoc. Dimitry Vechev. University Press "St. Kliment Ohridski, Sofia, 2022). Material from the British press is also drawn upon, as the visit of the Russian Tsar in 1844 was an event that made a great impression on contemporaries. The article has important implications for clarifying relations between Britain and Russia in the context of the Eastern Question, which Nicholas I wished to resolve in favour of St Petersburg. His visit to London was therefore intended to pave the way towards a favourable British position that would free Russian policy from the embarrassment of having to accommodate British interests. An interesting focus is placed on the weaknesses in Russian diplomacy and this episode is analysed through the lens of subsequent events in the Crimean War, a decade later. The following article (Appendix 10), entitled "Reflections on Russophobia in Britain in the First Half of the Nineteenth Century" (Journal of History, 2021, vol. XXIX. no. 4.) is similar in character. There the causes of Russophobia in Europe after 1815 and how these anti-Russian feelings settled on the Island are examined. On British soil, Russophobia acquired not merely the character of a public sentiment, but, according to some, even became an important ideological element in political debate and statecraft. Britain's foreign policy after 1830 was oriented towards opposition to the Russian threat of expansion, and the many propaganda materials that were printed are testimony to this. These are examined and analysed, and the most important Russophobic writings and the effect of their dissemination among the public of the time are explained in detail. Many of the essential features of the anti-Russian discourse of the mid-nineteenth century have essentially endured little change to the present day, making the problem sound topical, which is itself a testimonial to contemporary Russian politics. "The Conflict between Catholics and Orthodox over the Patronage of the Holy Places in Palestine on the Eve of the Crimean War"

(Appendix 11) (History, 2019, vol. XXVI, no. 4) presents an important issue on the occasion of the Crimean War - the dispute over which church should have the primary role in Christian holy sites in Palestine. This topic has been touched upon frequently in a variety of studies, which only partially explains the complex path from the petty confessional dispute among preachers in Jerusalem to the diplomatic conflict between the Great Powers that preceded the Crimean War. The article is based on official diplomatic correspondence and deliberately presents detailed descriptions of the rites, shrines, temples and their locations, because only in this way can one grasp how serious this issue seemed to contemporaries and why it was capable of leading to such an escalation of tensions between the diplomatic missions in Constantinople. The overall political context of this controversy is discussed, since it is not only what happens in Jerusalem, Bethlehem or Constantinople that matters, but especially the events in France after 1848 and the coming to power of Louis Napoleon, since this gives new impetus to an old quarrel. The publication (Appendix 12) on 'British Public Opinion and the Crimean War, 1854-1856' (In Dimitrov, D., Katsarov, S. et al. (eds.) *Empires and Imperial Legacies in the Balkans. Proceedings in Honour of the 70th Anniversary of Prof. In. VOL. II. New Time and Modernity. Plovdiv, 2019.*) discusses British public attitudes towards the conflict against Russia. Various sources are used, newspapers of the era and diaries of contemporaries are drawn upon, and an attempt is made to explain the peculiar transformation in British society from the country's usual Russophobia to the relatively new feeling that gradually took hold of the inhabitants of the British Isles - Russophobia. "British Radicals against the State Doctrine of William Pitt the Younger (1799-1815)" (Appendix 13) (In: Baeva, I. (ed.) *The State Idea in the Modern Age. University Press "St. Kliment Ohridski, Sofia, 2018*) aims to present a clash between the British Liberals and the ruling Tories during the reign of Prime Minister William Pitt Junior (1783-1806).

The confrontation between these two groups takes place against the backdrop of the thirteen colonies just lost in the New World and revolutionary unrest in France, events putting Britain's integrity to a fateful test. The final article (Appendix 14), is 'Crime or Enlightenment? On the work of the Marquis de Sade,' (Journal of History, 2018, vol. XXVI. no. 3). It provides a critical historical analysis of the literary work of the infamous libertine writer, through which it is interpreted not as pornography offensive to good bourgeois manners, but as de Sade's radical way of exposing the injustices of the Old Regime. The article contrasts this interpretation with the notion that the author of the shocking novels and novellas was a common womanizer and rapist, satisfying his perverse desires through the literary perpetuation of the consummate sadist. The present publication challenges this view by citing numerous examples of the revolutionary nature of this work, which demasculates the privileged classes as rapists who have lost their humanity, raining their furious lusts on the helpless commoners. In addition, the author's affiliation to the ideas of the Revolution is discussed, as well as his participation in it, in the organs of power created after the collapse of the regime, etc. - proof that his contemporaries saw de Sade as a man with merit for the victory against the monarchy. A very different image from the one in which de Sade is usually seen by literary criticism and social science.

GROUP E. The citations provided meet the requirements. Citations in world-renowned databases: 3 (45 points); Citations in peer-reviewed monographs and collective volumes: 8 (80 points); Citations or reviews in non-peer-reviewed journals: 2 (10 points). All citations and reviews are in serious scientific journals, collections and monographs. - **135 points.**

CONCLUSION

The peer-reviewed works show, **ch.as. Dr. Lyubomir Krastev** as a developed scientist who has his own opinion and skills to defend it. He moves in diverse areas of research that are consistent with his professional specialization and training and with a good methodological basis. As an author, he is extremely loyal to documentary sources and the achievements of historiography. The conclusions, and analyses are distinctly personal and represent the author's contribution in full respect of the achievements of the historiographical process. New perspectives and those on the topics he studies have their place in the scholarly space.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize that the research presented for review and the research work carried out by the author give me reason to state that after the defense of his dissertation, the participant in the competition has continued his research search, effectively using the accumulated knowledge and specialization. The presented scientific works fully meet the requirements of Article 2b of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, in the professional field 2.2. History and Archaeology. The points in the attached scientific metric table - 565, against the required 400, are real and meet the legal requirements.

All this, gives me full confidence to **vote positively** for the academic position of "Associate Professor" for Dr. Lyubomir Krastev.

15. 06. 2023 г.

Prof. Dr. Borislav Gavrilov