

## STATEMENT

by Prof. D.Sc. Todor Petrov Petrov

for the dissertation of Prof. Dr. Veselin Kostov Yanchev from Department “History of Bulgaria”, Faculty of History, Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”, on topic: “Army, Public Order and Home Security. September 1923. The Failure of an Ordered Uprising”, presented for acquiring of the science degree “Doctor of Sciences” in professional field 2.2. History and Archaeology (History of Bulgaria – Modern Bulgarian History 1878 – 1944).

The dissertation of Prof. Dr. Veselin Yanchev is dedicated to an underdeveloped issue that has remained aside from the attention of the Bulgarian historians and is related to the internal functions of the army in the peacetime periods in the Bulgarian history in modern and contemporary times. The dissertation is a natural sequel of his monographs on a cognate topic, which precede in chronology the discussed in the present exposition events.

The study presents the army’s role in the occurrences in the fall of 1923 as a protector of the statehood. It is clarified the army’s involvement in the internal political life of the state, its use for protection of the polity and for guaranteeing of the public order and home security as a precondition for the normal existence and functioning of the state and society. The grounds, preparation and actions of the state’s adversaries as well of those of the state’s guardians are also revealed.

According to the author the study was provoked by the lack of thorough scientific debate on the subject until now, despite the issue’s significance, and presents a peculiar reaction against the long-lasting attempts for imposition of the “correct” interpretation of the historical events. In response to this the main purpose of the study can be found – to enlighten the processes and tendencies in the state’s post-war society, the motives and actions of the political actors, which has led to the armed conflict in the autumn of 1923, the consequences for the state, society and army and also the suggested alternatives for the future (pp. 4 – 5 in the dissertation). In this regard the dissertation’s content fills a gap in the Bulgarian historiography. Writing it, Prof. Yanchev reconstructs the past occurrences, makes analysis and conclusions and offers a new picture of what happened a hundred years ago.

The dissertation consists of an introduction, 5 chapters, a conclusion and a list of the abbreviations used and has a volume of 499 pages. Its structure is balanced. The study covers the period from the end of the First World War to 1924, when the options were outlined for exiting the created situation, whose carriers were the political factors that provoked the confrontation in 1923.

A huge amount of sources and literature – documents and materials from more than 80 national and foreign collections, monographs, papers, articles, published documents, etc., was used for writing the dissertation.

The dissertation's text, study's results and author's publications on the topic are entirely Prof. Yanchev's merit and give a clear notion for the scientific contributions achieved. The latter can be summarized in the following way.

The first attempt for writing of an overall study with respect to the army's participation in the events of September 1923 and enlightening the army's place and role in the occurrences as a protector of the state was made.

The normative base giving legal grounds to the state's law enforcement institutions for guaranteeing the public order and home security as well as the number, organization, composition and dislocation of the army and gendarmerie formations after the Treaty of Neuilly-sur-Seine (1919), with emphasis on 1923, is revealed.

The social and political attitudes in the initial post-war years, the preparation and character of the coup d'état of 9 June 1923, the objectives, intentions and actions of the newly established rule are presented. The number of victims given by the Bulgarian Agrarian National Union in the different districts during the coup d'état is specified.

The positions of the internal and external opposition, the relations between the Communist International and the Bulgarian Communist Party (BCP), the BCP's attempts to oppose the decision for starting an immediate struggle, as well as the BCP's redirection under Comintern's pressure towards preparation for armed actions, are clearly imaged. The political and military and technical preparations on the eve of the upcoming events and the preventive measures taken by the authorities for protection against armed manifestations are presented.

For the first time the armed clashes in September 1923 are tracked in chronological order. This has allowed the army and police actions for restricting and stopping the armed clashes to be exposed in their sequence and interrelationship. The measures that followed aiming at pacification of the state and the BCP's actions directed towards continuing the course of armed insurrection are clarified as well.

Another contribution of the author regards the adding of information for problems, personalities and events and the correcting of the information about some of them. It is a merit of the study that the dissertation is based on sources used for the first time in the historiography. All this testifies the study is a result of long and persistent research.

The content and conclusions of the dissertation are correctly presented in synthesized form in the abstract. It is clear from the reference for compliance with the national minimum

requirements in accordance with the Law on the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, which Prof. Yanchev has presented, that he far exceeds the legally required points by group of indicators.

Having in mind the dissertation's merits and contributions achieved, I suggest to the members of the scientific council to vote positively for acquiring by Prof. Veselin Kostov Yanchev the science degree "Doctor of Sciences" in professional field 2.2. History and Archaeology (History of Bulgaria – Modern Bulgarian History 1878 – 1944).

20 November 2022

  
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