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The State of Research of Women's History in Bulgaria¹

Abstract

The article provides an overview of the state of research of women's history in Bulgarian historiography. The chronological framework covers the last thirty years – from the birth of this field until nowadays. It presents the main topics in the research of women's history in Bulgarian historiography and pays attention to the main historians who work on this track and their publications.

Keywords: historiography, Bulgarian history, Bulgarian historians

STAN BADAŃ NAD HISTORIĄ KOBIET W BUŁGARII

Streszczenie

Artykuł stanowi przegląd stanu badań nad historią kobiet w bułgarskiej historiografii. Ramy chronologiczne obejmują ostatnie trzydzieści lat – od narodzin tej dziedziny do czasów współczesnych. Przedstawia główne wątki badań historii kobiet w historiografii bułgarskiej, zwracając

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Słowa kluczowe: historiografia, historia Bułgarii, historycy bułgarscy

Introduction

Women's history undoubtedly has its place in Bulgarian historiography, but a significant part of the publications is not translated into Western languages, and this makes them little known to the foreign public. In principle, this field of research has come relatively recently to the attention of Bulgarian historians, and in the last 30 years, it has marked an increasingly significant presence in their research. The reasons for this are complex. First of all, attention should be paid to the fact that the historical science in Bulgaria arose after the liberation of the country from the power of the Ottoman Empire in 1878. The first university opened its doors in 1889 with a single historical-philological department. The young historical science faced the primary task of collecting and studying historical sources and writing the history of Bulgaria. Despite the colossal efforts and enormous research work to produce key scientific works, this process was not completed until the World War II.

It is interesting that several studies devoted to women also date from this period. Stefan Bobchev, who worked in the field of folklore and legal traditions in the past, published two articles dedicated to the social-legal position of women and the position of women according to the old Bulgarian and Romanian law systems². Unfortunately, in the interwar period only one study of the female image in Bulgarian numismatics was carried out³. A monograph on girls' education in Veliko Tarnovo before liberation was also published⁴. The issue of the education and upbringing of Bulgarian women had been examined in detail by Alexandra Pundeva-Voynikova. Her book was published in 1940 with the financial support

² Stefan Bobchev, "Obshtestveno-pravnoto polozhenie na zhenata v stara Balgariya", *Balgarska Sbirka*, no. 9–10, 1915; Stefan Bobchev, "Polozhenieto na zhenata spored staroto balgarsko i rumansko pravo," *Yuridicheski Pregled*, no. 4–5, 1931, 180–190.

³ Nikola Mushmov, "Zhenskiyat obraz v balgarskata numizmatika," *Izvestiya na Istoricheskoto Druzhestvo*, no. 11–12, 1932, 160–168.

⁴ Jordan Kuleliev, *Devicheskoto obrazovanie vav V. Tarnovo predi Osvobozhdenieto (1822–1877 god.)*, (Veliko Tarnovo: Pечатница "E. p. Hristov", 1936).

of the Bulgarian Women's Union⁵. It not only explored the notion that female education should be equal to that of males, but called attention to the pioneers of girls' education, the benefactors of girls' schools, and the great role of women's societies in the education of women.

Bulgarian historiography during the socialist period

After the World War II, Bulgaria became an USSR's satellite and remained within the boundaries of the Eastern Bloc for 45 years. Bulgarian historians had to continue their work in a totalitarian communist state under conditions of strict control, restrictions and coercion, as well as apply only historical materialism in their researches. Despite all these, all historical periods had been successfully worked on, a huge array of studies and monographs had been accumulated, multi-volume collections of sources have been published, and significant historical periodicals had also been created. Scholars began to take an increasing interest in subjects beyond political, diplomatic, and military history with time.

Since the 1960s, researches on women reappeared. First, in 1957, on the occasion of the centenary of the founding of the first women's societies in Bulgaria, an essay was published by Zdravka Vodenicharova and Nevyana Popova⁶. It was published by the publishing house of the Fatherland Front and focused on the left-wing women's movement. Virginia Paskaleva wrote in 1964 an essay about Bulgarian women during the Bulgarian National Revival⁷. In it, she highlighted on the thinking and being woman from the 18th century to the liberation, accentuating on the remarkable women from this era. As a continuation of her research, a documentary collection appeared in 1976, co-authored with Ruska Patarchanova, about Rayna Popgeorgieva, also known as Rayna Knyaginya, who sewed the flag of the April Uprising in 1876⁸. In

⁵ Aleksandra Pundeva-Voynikova, *Balgarkata prez epohata na Vazrazhdaneto (obrazovatelni i vazpitatelni problemi)*, (Sofia: Balgarski zhenski sayuz, 1940).

⁶ Nevyana Popova and Zdravka Vodenicharova, *Sto godini ot osnovavaneto na parvite družestva na zhenite v Bulgariya*, (Sofia: Otechestven Front, 1957).

⁷ Virginia Paskaleva, *Balgarkata prez Vazrazhdaneto*, (Sofia: BKP, 1964).

⁸ Virginia Paskaleva and Ruska Patarchanova (eds.), *Rayna knyaginya: Rayna Popgeorgieva Futekova. Avtobiografiya, dokumenti i materiali*, (Sofia: Nauka i izkustvo, 1976).

the same year, 1976, a study on Bulgarian women's organizations during the National Revival period was also published⁹. Nevertheless, revolutionary and socialist themes continued to prevail. Topics such as the social development of women in the workforce and the socialist problems of the female workers, as well as the life of the women in modern Bulgarian villages, were of main interest for the female historians during this period¹⁰. It should be noted that a large part of the researches was devoted primarily to the women's social-democratic movement, the revolutionary women's movement, the women's communist movement and the organizational development of the Bulgarian National Women's Union, which were written in the relevant communist party spirit at the time¹¹. However, other themes are also found in the historiography of this period. Research on women's societies in relation to their assistance to the victims of the April Uprising and to the assistance of the Russian troops during the Russo-Turkish War of Liberation in 1877–1878 was carried out by Margarita Cholakova¹². Violeta Nesheva, on the other hand, made research about women's clothing during the period of the Second Bulgarian Kingdom in her dissertation¹³ and also devoted a separate article to women's aristocratic costume¹⁴. Magda Hristodulova studied the titles and regalia of the

⁹ Boyka Vasileva, "Balgarski zhenski organizacii prez Vyzrazhdaneto", *Godishnik na Sofijskiya Universitet "Sv. Kliment Ohridski" – Istoricheski Fakultet*, no. 70, 1978.

¹⁰ Ivanichka Georgieva and Detelina Moskova, *Zhenata v savremennoto balgarsko selo*, (Sofia: BAN, 1981); Lilyana Zarcheva, "Socialното razvitie na zhenata v trudoviya kolektiv," in: *Zhenata – Majka, Truzhenichka, Obshtestvenichka*, (Sofia: Izdatelstvo na BKP, 1974), 67–101; Vera Oshavkova, "Socialisticheski problemi na zhenata rabotnichka", in: *Zhenata – majka, truzhenichka, obshtestvenichka*, (Sofia: Izdatelstvo na BKP, 1974), 102–124.

¹¹ Radka Bradinska, *Vznikvane i oformyane na zhenskoto social-demokraticheskoto dvizhenie v Bulgariya, 1885–1915*, (Sofia, NS OF, 1969); Zdravka Vodenicharova and Nevena Popova, *Revolucionното zhensko dvizhenie v Bulgariya*, (Sofia: Otechestven front, 1972); Cveta Todorova, *Balgarskata komunisticheska partiya i zhenskoto komunisticheskoto dvizhenie v Bulgariya (1919–1944)*, (Sofia: Partizdat, 1982); Krasimira Trifonova, "Harakter i organizatsionno razvitie na Balgarskija naroden zhenski sayuz (1944–1950)", *Izvestiya na Instituta po Istoriya na Balgarskata Komunisticheska Partiya*, no. 47, 1982, 283–310.

¹² Margarita Cholakova, "Balgarskite zhenski družhestva v pomosht na postradalite sled Aprilskoto vastanie", in: *Yubileen sbornik po sluchay 110 godini ot Aprilskoto vastanie i 150 godini ot rozhdenieto na Vasil Levski*, (Sofia: Center for Propaganda, Information and Press at the Committee for Culture, 1987); Margarita Cholakova, "Balgarskite zhenski družhestva v pomosht na osvoboditelite", in: *Sbornik 110 godini ot izgreva na svobodata pri Svishtov*, 1987.

¹³ Violeta Valkova-Nesheva, *Zhenskiyat svetski kostyum prez Vtorata balgarska darzhava (1186–1396)*, (Sofia: BAN, 1976).

¹⁴ Violeta Nesheva, "Zhenskiyat aristokratichen kostyum prez Vtorata balgarska darzhava", *Numizmatika*, no. 4, 1975, 23–48.

Bulgarian female rulers during the Middle Ages and paid attention to the socio-legal characteristics of women¹⁵. Social history also received attention. Maria Todorova's research on marriage, family and household in Bulgaria and the Balkans during the Ottoman period made an important contribution in this regard¹⁶.

Women's history in Bulgarian researches after 1989

The democratic changes that took place in Bulgaria in 1989 with the fall of Todor Zhivkov from power led to an increased interest in the modern trends in the historical science. The number of studies devoted to women in all historical periods increased. Regarding the Middle Ages, the most productive author is Sashka Georgieva. She published two voluminous monographs on women in Bulgarian Middle Ages and on the marital diplomacy of Medieval Bulgarian rulers¹⁷. The first book is a comprehensive study of the history of women in the Bulgarian Middle Ages. The first chapter examines the problems related to the religious, moral, socio-political and aesthetic views, representations and ideas about women that existed during the Pagan and Christian periods in the Medieval Bulgarian society. The second chapter examines the legal situation in Medieval Bulgaria, with a detailed analysis of the information on the rights and obligations of women, their legal protection, etc. The last chapter analyzes the real presence of women in the economic, religious and political life of Medieval Bulgaria. The second book concentrated on the marital diplomacy of the Bulgarian rulers, tracing its political orientation and offering a statistical analysis.

¹⁵ Magda Hristodulova, "Socialno-pravnata karakteristika na zhenata v srednovekovnata balgarska darzhava (VII–XIV v.)", *Trudove na VTU*, 18, no. 2, 1981, 7–58; Magda Hristodulova, "Titul i regalii bolgarskoj vladeteljnici v epohu srednevekovjja (VII–XIV v.)", *Etudes Balkaniques*, no. 3, 1978, 141–148.

¹⁶ Maria Todorova, "Brak i brachnost v Bylgariya prez XIX v.", *Istoricheski Pregled*, no. 3, 1989, 59–78; Maria Todorova, "Population Structure, Marriage Patterns, Family and Household (According to Ottoman Documentary Material from North-Eastern Bulgaria in 60s of the 19th Century)", *Etudes Balkaniques*, no. 3, 1983, 59–73.

¹⁷ Sashka Georgieva, *Zhenata v Balgarskoto Srednovekovie*, (Plovdiv: Fondaciya Balgarsko istoricheskoto nasledstvo, 2011); Sashka Georgieva, *Brachna diplomaciya na srednovekovnite balgarski vladeteli*, (Plovdiv: Fondaciya Balgarsko istoricheskoto nasledstvo, 2019).

Sashka Georgieva is an author of many articles as well. Among the topics she explored in them are marriage law, polygamy, marital and extramarital sexual relations, intersex relations, wedding customs, women's property rights, female ordination, women and asceticism, women's mythological image and others¹⁸.

¹⁸ Sashka Georgieva, "Mnogobrachiето v srednovekovното balgarsko tsarstvo", *Istoricheski Pregled*, no. 10, 1990, 3–16; Sashka Georgieva, "Zhenskoto ktitorstvo v srednovekovna Balgariya", *Istoricheski Pregled*, no. 8, 1991, 44–52; Sashka Georgieva, "Model i deystvitelnost v asketichniya zhivot na zhenite v srednovekovna Balgariya", *Ricerche Slavistiche*, no. 41, 1994), 105–120; Sashka Georgieva, "Zhenata prez pogleda na zapadnoevropeyskite i balgarskite knizhovnitsi ot Srednovekovieto", *Minalo*, no. 3, 1996, 48–55; Sashka Georgieva, "Balgarskite tsaritsi v srednovekovnite slavyanski pametnitsi", *Palaeobulgarica*, no. 4, 2019, 64–85; Sashka Georgieva, "Vliyanie na vizantiyskoto zakonodatelstvo varhu starobalgarskoto brachno pravo", *Istoricheski Pregled*, no. 1, 1997, 50–66; Sashka Georgieva, "Balgaro-vizantiyskata brachna diplomatsiya po vreme na Parvoto balgarsko tsarstvo", *Istoricheski Pregled*, no. 5–6, 2011, 170–175; Sashka Georgieva, "Izvanbrachnite seksualni otnosheniya v srednovekovното balgarsko pravo", *Istoricheskо Badeshte*, no. 1–2, 1999, 206–213; Sashka Georgieva, "Ezicheskite imotnopravni otnosheniya i zhenata", in: Krassimira Daskalova and Rayna Gavrilova (eds.) *Granici na grazhdanstvoto: Evropeyskite zheni mezhdu traditsiyata i modernostta*, (Sofia: LIK, 2001), 9–16; Sashka Georgieva, "Zhenskiyat mitologichen obraz – mit i realnost v ezicheskite vyarvaniya na slavyani i balgari", *Istoricheskо Badeshte*, no. 1, 2001, 119–128; Sashka Georgieva, "Imushtestvenite prava na zhenite v srednovekovното balgarsko zakonodatelstvo", in: *Polihroniya. Sbornik v chest na prof. Ivan Bozhilov*, (Sofia: Anubis, 2002), 78–96; Sashka Georgieva, "Vladetel, darzhava i tsarkva na Balkanite prez Srednovekovieto. Tipove diplomaticheski brachni sporazumeniya, sklyuchvani ot srednovekovните balgarski vladeteli", in: *Vladetel, dyrzhava i tsarkva na Balkanite prez Srednovekovieto. Sbornik v chest na 60-godishninata na prof. d-r Plamen Pavlov*, vol. 2, (Veliko Tarnovo: Faber, 2020), 235–241; Sashka Georgieva, "Mezhdupolovite otnosheniya v brachното i brakorazvodno pravo, deystvalo v srednovekovna Balgariya", *Istoricheskо Badeshte*, no. 1–2, 2001, 208–229; Sashka Georgieva, "Za rolyata na seksualnite otnosheniya v braka – paraleli mezhdu srednovekovniya Iztok i Zapad", *Epohi*, no. 1–2, 2005, 59–68; Sashka Georgieva, "Svatbeni obichai v srednovekovna Balgariya", *Bulgaria Mediaevalis*, no. 11, 2020, 343–350; Sashka Georgieva, "Imalo li e balgaro-ruski mezhdu dinastichni brakove prez Srednovekovieto?", *Bulgaria Mediaevalis*, no. 9, 2018, 365–375; Sashka Georgieva, "Realnoto prilozhenie na imushtestvenite prava na zhenite v srednovekovna Balgariya", *Istoricheski Pregled*, no. 1–2, 2010, 3–22; Sashka Georgieva, "Balgaro-bosnenski dinasticheski brakove prez XIV vek", *Istoricheskо Badeshte*, 2016, 151–163; Sashka Georgieva, "Diplomatic Marriages in Medieval Bulgarian Foreign Policy", *Bulgarian Historical Review*, no. 1, 1993, 116–126; Sashka Georgieva, "Le mariage aristocratique dans la politique intérieure bulgare a l'époque du Moyen Age", *Bulgarian Historical Review*, no. 1, 1994, 12–21; Sashka Georgieva, "The Political Activity of Women during the Period of the First Bulgarian Kingdom", *Bulgarian Historical Review*, no. 1, 1997, 109–114; Sashka Georgieva, "Marital Infidelity in Christian West European and Bulgarian Mediaeval Law (A comparative study)", *Bulgarian Historical Review*, no. 3–4, 2003, 113–126; Sashka Georgieva, "Female Politicians in the Second Bulgarian Tsardom", *Bulgaria Mediaevalis*, no. 1, 2010, 113–136; Sashka Georgieva, "The Byzantine princesses in Bulgaria", *Byzantinobulgarica*, no. 9, 1994, 163–201; Sashka Georgieva, "The Last Bulgarian-Wallachian Diplomatic Marriage in the Middle Ages: Facts and Hypotheses", *Bulgaria Mediaevalis*, no. 8, 2017, 483–494; Sashka Georgieva, "Bulgarian-Byzantine marital diplomacy from 1185 to 1280", *Bulgaria Mediaevalis*, no. 3, 2012, 431–452; Sashka Georgieva, "Bulgarian-Hungarian marital diplomacy during the first half of the thirteenth

She is followed by other Bulgarian historians dealing with various topics. In her studies, Lilyana Simeonova focuses on the Christianization of Bulgaria, developing the problems of the legal protection of women and children after conversion and the place of women and marriage in the Christianized society¹⁹. Other historians concentrated on the problems of the position of women in the First and Second Bulgarian kingdoms, as well as the role of women in these historical periods²⁰.

The question of the position of women after the conquest of Bulgaria by the Ottomans and during the period of Ottoman rule (1396–1878) attracts the attention of a number of historians. Olga Todorova examines the lives of Christian and Muslim women in the Balkans from various aspects: their legal status, daily life, their position as marriage partners, the Orthodox marriage and mixed marriages, as well as the unprestigious roles of servants, slaves and prostitutes, in which women sometimes were placed²¹.

century", *Bulgaria Mediaevalis*, no. 6, 2015, 339–355; Sashka Georgieva, "Bulgarian-Latin Marriages during the First Half of the Thirteenth Century", *Bulgarian Historical Review*, no. 3–4, 2014, 3–28; Sashka Georgieva, "Bulgarian-Serbian Marital Diplomacy from the End of 13th to the Beginning of 14th Century", *Istorijski Chasopis*, no. 66, 2017, 85–127; Sashka Georgieva, "How Valid Were the Marriages of Medieval Bulgarian Rulers", *Bulgarian Historical Review*, no. 1–2, 2020, 31–51; Sashka Georgieva, "The religious life of women in medieval Bulgaria", *Bulgaria Mediaevalis*, no. 10, 2019, 291–308.

¹⁹ Lilyana Simeonova, "Hristiyanizatsiyata na Balgariya i problemat za myastoto na zhenata i braka. – V: Obshtoto i specifichnoto v balkanskite kulturi do kraya na XIX vek", in: *Sbornik v chest na 70-godishninata na prof. V. Tapkova-Zaimova*, (Sofia: Gutenberg, 1999), 46–61; Lilyana Simeonova, "Pravna zashtita na zhenite i detsata v novopokrastentoto balgarsko obshtestvo (Zakon za sadene na horata, Ekloga)", in: *Shtrihi kam Balkanskoto Srednovekovie. Izsledvaniya v pamet na prof. Nikolaj Kochev (= Studia Balkanica, 27)*, (Sofia: Institut po balkanistika, Paradigma, 2009), 117–125.

²⁰ Zlatozhivka Zdravkova and Reneta Zlateva, "Pozitsiyata na zhenata v Parvata balgarska darzhava", *Nauchni trudove – Rusenski universitet Angel Kanchev*, no. 45, 2006, 7–13; Zlatozhivka Zdravkova and Reneta Zlateva, "Pozitsiyata na zhenata v Vtorata balgarska darzhava", *Nauchni trudove – Rusenski universitet Angel Kanchev*, no. 54, 2015, 151–159; Yoana Pavlova, "Rolyata na zhenata v Vtorata balgarska darzhava", *Nauchni trudove – Nacionalen voenen universitet "Vasil Levski"*, 44, no. 2, 1996, 163–167.

²¹ Olga Todorova, "Pravoslavniyat brak prez parvite vekove na osmanskoto vladichestvo i predizvikatelstvata na islyama", in: *Religiya i tsarkva v Balgariya. Socialni i kulturni izmeneniya na pravoslaviето i negovata specifika v balgarskite zemi*, (Sofia: Gutenberg, 1999), 330–346; Olga Todorova, "Evolyutsiya khristiyanikh vzglyadov na smeshannyye braki (khristian s musul'manami) v XV–XVIII vv.", *Bulgarian Historical Review*, no. 1, 1991, 42–62; Olga Todorova, "Balgarkata hristiyanka prez XV–XVIII vek", *Istoriicheski Pregled*, no. 4, 1992, 3–27; Olga Todorova, "Nyakoi vaprosi na zhenskaya statut prez XVI vek (Varhu material ot balgarskite zemi)", in: *Balgarskiyat shestnadeseti vek. Sbornik s dokladi za balgarskata obshta i kulturna istoriya prez XVI vek*, (Sofia: NBKM, 1996), 103–127; Olga Todorova, "Zhenite v Sofiya prez 70-te godini na XVII vek (Po dannii ot edin registar s nasledstveni

Her monograph “Women from the Central Balkans during the Ottoman Era (XV–XVIII centuries)”²² is a historical reconstruction of the lives of women from the Central Balkan region during the early centuries of the Ottoman rule. Both Christian women and Muslim women are in the focus of the study, centered around the typically female dimensions of the great religious conflict – a contact that defined the face of the era. The author manages to show that even in these “most male” times of Balkan history, women had their reserved, albeit relatively modest, place in the public life and public space. The work is based primarily on Ottoman Turkish archival documents. Svetlana Ivanova, for her part, researches topics such as divorces, judicial treatment of marital problems, Christian and Muslim women in court, etc.²³ Margarita Karamihova also deals with marriage issues during the Ottoman period, but focuses on

opisi)”, *Istoricheski Pregled*, no. 3, 1996, 3–40; Olga Todorova, “Prostitucijata v balgarskite zemi prez rannite vekove na osmanskoto vladичество”, in: Krassimira Daskalova and Rayna Gavrilo (eds.), *Granitsi na grazhdanstvoto: Evropeyskite zheni mezhdu traditsiyata i modernostta*, (Sofia: LIK, 2001), 63–78; Olga Todorova, “Prisluzhnitsi i konkubini: robnite – edna neizsledvana socialna kategoriya ot epohata na osmanskoto vladичество (XV–XVII v.)”, *Istoricheskoto Badeshte*, no. 1–2, 2002, 230–269; Olga Todorova, “‘Mazhki’ vremena? (Zhenata v publichnoto prostranstvo prez parvite stoletiya na osmanskoto vladичество)”, in: *Kontrasti i konflikti ‘zad kadar’ v balgarskoto obshtestvo prez XV–XVIII vek*, (Sofia: Gutenberg, 2003), 63–153; Olga Todorova, “Dzhendarni aspekti na islyamizaciya: ustnata tradiciya sreshku istoriyata”, *Balgarski Folklor*, no. 3–4, 2008, 79–100.

²² Olga Todorova, *Zhenite ot Centralnite Balkani prez osmanskata epoha (XV–XVII v.)*, (Sofia: Gutenberg, 2004).

²³ Svetlana Ivanova, “Judicial Treatment of the Matrimonial Problems of Christian Women in Rumeli During the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries”, in: Amila Buturovic and Irwin Schick (eds.), *Women in the Ottoman Balkans. Gender, Culture and History*, (London–New York: I.B. Tauris, 2007), 153–200; Svetlana Ivanova, “Muslim and Christian Women Before the Kadi Court in Eighteenth Century Rumeli: Marriage Problems”, *Oriente Moderno*, 79, no. 1, 1999, 161–176; Svetlana Ivanova, “Marriage and Divorce in the Bulgarian Lands (XV–XIX c.)”, *Bulgarian Historical Review*, no. 2–3, 1993, 49–84; Svetlana Ivanova, “The Divorce between Zubaida Hatun and Esseid Osman Aga: Women in the Eighteenth-Century Shari’a Court of Rumelia”, in: Amira el Azhary Sonbol (ed.), *Omen, the Family, and Divorce Laws in Islamic History*, (Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 1996), 112–125; Svetlana Ivanova, “Brak i razvod v balgarskite zemi (XVI–XIX v.)”, *Izvestiya na NBKM*, 22, no. 28, 1994, 159–193; Svetlana Ivanova, “Kakvoto povelyava zakonat sapruzheski. Sadebno tretirane na brachnite problemi na hristiyankite u nas prez XVI–XVIII v.”, in: Krassimira Daskalova and Rayna Gavrilo (eds.), *Granitsi na grazhdanstvoto: evropeyskite zheni mezhdu traditsiyata i modernostta*, (Sofia: LIK, 2001), 30–62; Svetlana Ivanova, “Sadebno tretirane na brachnite problemi na myusulmanite v tsentralnata chast na Rumeliya prez XVIII v.”, *Balgarski Folklor*, no. 4, 1998, 51–64; Svetlana Ivanova, “Hristiyanki i mjusulmanki pred kadiyskiya sad v Rumeliya prez XVIII v.: brachni problemi”, *Istoricheski Pregled*, no. 10, 1991, 76–87.

villages²⁴. Marriage in the period before the liberation is also examined by Daniela Angelova²⁵.

The transition to modernity and the Bulgarian National Revival era in general (XVIII–XIX centuries), when the Bulgarian nation was formed and the struggle for national liberation began, dominates Margarita Cholakova's researches. In a separate monograph, she studies the Bulgarian women's movement during the last decades of the National Revival period²⁶. Her articles are devoted to the international contacts of women's societies, their theatrical activity and their relationship with educational work at that time²⁷. Another author, Rayna Gavrilova, works on the topic about private and public in the lives of Bulgarian women in the 19th century²⁸. The issues of women's education and the place of women in Bulgarian literature during the Renaissance are developed by Krassimira Daskalova in two of her articles²⁹.

Very fruitful for Bulgarian researchers of women's history is the period of the Third Bulgarian state, which covers the decades from the liberation as a result of the Russo-Turkish War of 1877–1878 to the Second World War and the coming of the Communists to power with the coup on September 9, 1944. In this period the Bulgarian women's movement unfolded and the struggle for women's rights began. Among the main researchers of the period are

²⁴ Margarita Karamihova, *Brakat v balgarskite sela v perioda na osmansko vladичество*, (Sofia, 1991).

²⁵ Daniela Angelova, *Brakat po balgarskite zemi prez XIX v. (do 1878 g.)*, (Sofia: Regalia 6, 2020).

²⁶ Margarita Cholakova, *Balgarskoto zhensko dvizhenie prez Vazrazhdaneto 1857–1878*, (Sofia: Albo, 1994).

²⁷ Eadem, "Mezhdunarodni kontakti na balgarskite zhenski druzhestva 1876–1878", *Godishnik na muzeite v Severna Balgariya (GMSB)*, no. 17, 1991; eadem, "Teatralna deynost na balgarskite zhenski druzhestva prez Vazrazhdaneto", *Godishnik na muzeite v Severna Balgariya (GMSB)*, no. 18, 1992; eadem, "Zhenskite druzhestva i deloto na Sv. sv. Kiril i Metodiy prez Vazrazhdaneto", in: *Mezhdunaroden Simpozium. 1100 Godini ot blazhenata konchina na Sv. Metodiy*, vol. 1, 1989; eadem, "Zhenskite druzhestva i chitalishtata prez Vazrazhdaneto (1857–1878)", in: *Sbornik Materiali, posveteni na 45 godishninata na SNRB i 25 godishninata na SNRB-klon Veliko Tarnovo* (Veliko Tarnovo, 1990).

²⁸ Rayna Gavrilova, "Mezhdru chastnoto i publichnoto: balgarskite zheni prez 19 vek", in: Krassimira Daskalova and Rayna Gavrilova (eds.), *Granitsi na grazhdanstvoto: evropeyskite zheni mezhdru tradiciyata i modernostta*, (Sofia: LIK, 2011), 98–107.

²⁹ Krassimira Daskalova, "Zhenite v balgarskata vazrozhdenska knizhnina", in: Anna Ilieva (ed.), *Uchebnite knigi prez Vazrazhdaneto*, (Plovdiv, 1996); Krassimira Daskalova, "Obrazovanie na zhenite i zhenite v obrazovaniето na vazrozhdenska Bylgariya", *Godishnik na Sofiy-skiya Universitet. Centyr po kulturoznanie*, no. 85, 1992.

Krassimira Daskalova, Georgeta Nazarska and Ana Luleva. One of the key studies is Krassimira Daskalova's monograph "Women, Gender and Modernization in Bulgaria 1878–1944"³⁰. The book is divided into seven chapters. They are devoted to: 1. the history of women and gender; 2. the construction of gender identities; 3. the education of women; 4. the Bulgarian women's movement between nationalism, socialism and feminism; 5. the nation-state and the political citizenship of women; 6. the professional life of women in Bulgaria; 7. sexuality and prostitution. The study places the Bulgarian development in the context of the Balkans and Europe; showing that Bulgarian society and culture are neither more nor less "patriarchal" than other societies in Europe and the world at that time, and progressive individuals of both sexes have considered solving the so-called women's issue as key to building a harmonious and successfully functioning society. Other texts by Krassimira Daskalova are dedicated to women's identities, the emancipation of women in Bulgaria, Bulgarian feminism, women's citizenship, women's participation in various spheres of life, notable Bulgarian women of the era, etc.³¹, but a large part of

³⁰ Krassimira Daskalova, *Zheni, pol i modernizatsiya v Balgariya 1878–1944. Vtoro preraboteno i dopolneno izdanie*, (Sofia: UI „Sv. Kliment Ohridski”, 2022).

³¹ Krassimira Daskalova, "Zhenskiy svyat' i zhenskata emantsipatsiya v konteksta na balgarskata modernizatsiya (1893–1989)", *Nachalata na Balgarskata modernost. Revolyucionni idei i vsekidnevni praktiki. Regionalen istoricheski muzey Ruse. Izvestiya*, no. 21, 2019, 106–120; eadem, "Nacionalnata darzhava, modernizatsiyata i politicheskoto grazhdanstvo na zhenite (1878–1944)", *Kritika i humanizam*, 30, no. 3, 2009, 179–199; eadem, "Kam istoriyata na sotsialnite dvizheniya v Balgariya: balgarskite feminizmi (1857–1944)", in: Daniela Koleva and Maya Grekova (eds.), *Kulturata: granitsi i sasedstva. V chest na prof. Ivan Stefanov* (Universitetska Biblioteka No 441), (Sofia: Universitetsko izdatelstvo "Sv. Kliment Ohridski", 2005), 301–334; eadem, "Balgarskite istorichki (1901–1944) v nacionalnata istoriya", in: Milena Kirova and Kornelia Slavova (eds.), *Rod i red v balgarskata kultura*, (Sofia: Fondatsiya "Tsentar za izsledvaniya i politiki za zhenite", 2005), 25–42; eadem, "Zhenskoto dvizhenie v Balgariya prez prizmata na edin zhivot (Dimitrana Ivanova)", *Istoricheski Pregled*, no. 5–6, 1998, 204–217; eadem, "Balgarskite zheni v socialni dvizheniya, zakoni i diskursi (1840–1940)", in: eadem (ed.), *Ot syankata na istoriyata: Zhenite v balgarskoto obshtestvo i kultura. Sbornik ot Tekstove*, (Sofia: LIK, 1998), 11–41; eadem, "Feminizmat, istoriyata na zhenite i ramkite za tyahnoto osmislyane", *Sotsiologicheski Problemi*, no. 4, 1995; eadem, "Zhenite i balgarskata knizhnina (1878–1944)", *Godishnik na Sofiyskiya Universitet. Tsentar po kulturoznanie*, no. 86, 1992; eadem, "Istoriyata na zhenite: problemi i perspektivi", in: Milena Kirova and Kornelia Slavova (eds.), *Teoriya prez granitsite*, (Sofia: Polis, 2001), 28–58; eadem, "Zhenski identichnosti", in: Nikolay Aretov and Nikolay Chernokozhev (eds.), *Balkanski identichnosti v modernata balgarska kultura, XIX–XX vek*, (Sofia, 2001), 157–228; eadem,

her publications are made in foreign languages³². She was first to publish sources on women's history and also participated as a compiler in numerous collections³³.

"Feminizam i ravenstvo v balgarskija XX vek", in: Ralitsa Muharska (ed.), *Mayki i dashteri*, (Sofia: Polis, 1999), 80–105.

³² Krassimira Daskalova, "Histoire des femmes et du genre dans les Balkans. Retour sur 50 ans d'enseignement et de recherche", *Clio*, no. 48, 2018, 181–191, <https://doi.org/10.4000/clio.15095>; Krassimira Daskalova and Susan Zimmermann, "Women's and Gender History 1", in: Irina Livezeanu and Arpad von Klimó (eds.), *The Routledge History of East Central Europe since 1700*, (Abingdon–Oxon–New York: Routledge, 2017), 278–322, <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315230894-7>; eadem, "A Woman Politician in the Cold War Balkans: From Biography to History", *Aspasia*, 10, no. 1, 2016, <https://doi.org/10.3167/asp.2016.100105>; Krassimira Daskalova and Karen Offen, "The Tensions within the Early Twentieth-Century Bulgarian Women's Movement", *Aspasia*, 9, no. 1, 2015, <https://doi.org/10.3167/asp.2015.090107>; Krassimira Daskalova and others, "Clio on the Margins: Women's and Gender History in Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe (Part One)", *Aspasia*, 6, no. 1, 2012, 125–185, <https://doi.org/10.3167/asp.2012.060109>; Krassimira Daskalova, "Women's suffrage in Bulgaria", in: Blanca Rodrigues Ruiz and Ruth Rubio (eds.), *Women's Suffrage in Europe*, (Brill, 2012), 321–337; eadem, "How Should We Name the 'Women-Friendly' Actions of State Socialism", *Aspasia. International Yearbook of Central, Eastern and Southeastern European Women's and Gender History*, no. 1, 2007, 2014–2019; eadem, "Vom allgemeinen Maennerwahlrecht ueber das Muetterwahlrecht zum Wahlrecht fuer alle Buergerinnen und Buerger in Bulgarien", in: Bettina Bab et al. (eds.), *Mit Macht Zur Wahl. 100 Jahre Frauenwahlrecht in Europa*, (Bonn: FrauenMuseum – Kunst – Kultur – Forschung, 2006), 172–182; eadem, "Education and European Women's Citizenship. Images of Women in the Bulgarian History Textbooks", in: Sirkku K. Hellsten, Anne Maria Holli, and Krassimira Daskalova (eds.), *Women's Citizenship and Political Rights*, (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2006), 107–126; Francisca De Haan, Krassimira Daskalova, and Anna Lutfi (eds.), *A Biographical Dictionary of Women's Movements and Feminisms. Central, Eastern and South Eastern Europe, 19th – 20th Centuries*, (Budapest and New York: CE, 2006); Krassimira Daskalova, "Bulgarian Women's Movement (1850s–1940s)", in: Edith Saure, Margareth Lanzinger, and Elisabeth Frysak (eds.), *Women's Movements. Networks and Debates in Post-Communist Countries in the 19th and 20th Centuries*, (Koeln–Weimar–Wien: Boehlau Verlag, 2006), 413–437; eadem, "The Women's Movement in Bulgaria in a Life Story", *Women's History Review*, 13, no. 1, 2004, 91–103; Krassimira Daskalova, "A Life in History (Fani Popova-Mutafova)", *Gender and History* 14, no. 2, 2002, 321–339; eadem, "Women, Nationalism and Nation-State in Bulgaria (1800–1940s)", in: Miroslav Jovanovic and Slobodan Naumovic (eds.), *Gender Relations in South Eastern Europe: Historical Perspectives on Womanhood and Manhood in 19th and 20th Century*, (Belgrade–Graz: Institut fuer Geschichte der Universitat Graz, 2002), 15–37; eadem, "Die Entwicklung der Frauengeschichte in Bulgarien", *L'Homme. Zeitschrift fuer Feministische Geschichtswissenschaft*, 13, no. 2, 2002, 364–374; eadem, "Women's Problems, Women's Discourses in Post-Communist Bulgaria", in: Susan Gal and Gail Kligman (eds.), *Reproducing Gender: Politics, Publics, and Everyday Life After Socialism*, (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2000), 331–380; eadem, "Establishing a Women's History Course on Women in Bulgarian Society, 1840–1940, at Sofia University", *Women's History Review*, 9, no. 1, 2000, 149–153; eadem, "Bulgarian Women in Movements, Laws, Discourses (1840–1940)", *Bulgarian Historical Review*, no. 1–2, 1999, 184–200; eadem, "The Women's Movement in Bulgaria after Communism", in: Joan W. Scott, Cora Kaplan, and Debra Keates (eds.), *Transitions, Environments, Translations: Feminisms in International Politics*, (New York: Routledge, 1997), 162–175.

³³ Sirkku Hellsten, Anne Maria Holli, and Krassimira Daskalova (eds.), *Women's Citizenship and Political Rights*, (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2006); Francisca De Haan, Kras-

Georgeta Nazarska works in the field of social history, ethnic and religious communities, women and gender, education and institutions. Her monograph *University Education and Bulgarian Women 1879–1944*³⁴ is based on earlier researches³⁵, but uses statistical methods and offers an important sociological view of the subject, combining educational and purely feminist issues. The study traces the birth of the idea of higher education for women and its realization in Bulgaria, the professional realization of Bulgarian women and its influence on their personal lives. Leading highlights are the emancipation of Bulgarian women and the modernization of Bulgarian society. In her other studies, Georgeta Nazarska concentrates on topics such as the professional realization of women with higher education in various professional fields – fiction, medicine, librarianship, history, women intellectuals, academic career of Bulgarian women and feminism³⁶. Together with

simira Daskalova, and Anna Lutfi (eds.), *A Biographical Dictionary of Women's Movements and Feminisms. Central, Eastern and South Eastern Europe, 19th – 20th Centuries*, (Budapest–New York: CEU Press, 2006); Ute Gerhard and Krassimira Daskalova (eds.), *Ost – West Feminismen. A Special Issue of L'Homme. Europaeische Zeitschrift fuer Feministische Geschichtswissenschaft*, 16. Jg. Heft 1, 2005; Krassimira Daskalova and Kornelia Slavova (eds.), *Zhenski identichnosti na Balkanite*, (Sofia: Polis, 2004); Krassimira Daskalova (ed.), *Voices of Their Own. Oral History Interviews of Women*, (Sofia: Polis, 2004); Krassimira Daskalova and Rayna Gavrilova, *Granitsi na grazhdanstvoto: evropeyskite zheni mezhdu traditsiyata i modernostta*, (Sofia: LIK, 2001); Krassimira Daskalova (ed.), *Ot syankata na istoriyata: zhenite v balgarskoto obshtestvo i kultura. Sbornik s tekstove*, (Sofia: LIK, 1998).

³⁴ Georgeta Nazarska, *Universitetskoto obrazovanie i balgarskite zheni*, (Sofia: IMIR, 2003).

³⁵ Ekaterina Zlatoustova, "Devicheskoto obrazovanie predi Osvobozhdenieto", *Uchilishten Pregled*, 1930, 1404–1420; Ekaterina Zlatoustova, "Devicheskoto obrazovanie sled Osvobozhdenieto", *Uchilishten Pregled*, 1930, 1521–1540; Maria Radeva, *Kulturnata politika na balgarskata burzhoazna darzhava*, (Sofia: Universitetsko izdatelstvo "Sv. Kliment Ohridski", 1982).

³⁶ Georgeta Nazarska, "Klubat na bylgarskite pisatelki i profesionalното utvarzhdavane na zhenskiya knizhoven trud, 1930–1946", *Izdatel*, no. 3, 2004, 48–52; eadem, "Da vi dadem iskanoto ot vas i vremeto obrazovanie...": Zhenskiyat intelektualen elit v Bylgariya i rolyata na semeystvoto", *Trudove na Spetsializiranoto visshe uchilishte po bibliotekoznanie i informacionny tehnologii (SVUBIT)*, no. 3, 2004, 247–258; eadem, "Intelektualka ot 'podranilo pokolenie' – Ekaterina Zlatoustova, 1881–1952", *Minalo*, no 1, 2005, 84–94; eadem, "Istoriyata kato profesiya na balgarskite zheni, 1879–50-te god. na XX v.", *Istoriya*, no. 2–3, 2005, 42–64; eadem, "Dostapat na zhenite do balgarskata universitetska nauka", *Istoriicheski Pregled*, no. 5–6, 2005, 116–147; eadem, "L'Association des Femmes Bulgares à l'Instruction Supérieure (L'AFBIS) 1924–1950", *Bulgarian Historical Review*, no. 1–2, 2005, 120–147; eadem, "Kulturni kontakti mezhdu zhenskite intelektualni eliti na Bylgariya i Yugoslaviya, 1919–1944", *Trudove na SVUBIT*, no. 4, 2005, 317–327; eadem, "Spisanie „Grazhdanka" v balgarskata socialna i kulturna modernizaciya", *Izdatel*, no. 2–3, 2005, 88–93; eadem, "Pionerkite v balgarskoto bibliotечно delo", *Biblioteka*, no. 6, 2005, 29–36; eadem, "Bulgarian Association of University Women, 1924–1950", *Aspasia. International Yearbook for Women's and Gender History of Central, Eastern and South Eastern Europe*, no. 1, 2007,

Krassimira Daskalova, in 2007 she published a bilingual brochure *Women's Movement and Feminisms in Bulgaria*, dedicated to the 80th anniversary of the Society of Bulgarian Women with Higher Education, today the Bulgarian Association of University Women, and to the 105th anniversary of the Bulgarian Women's Union³⁷.

In her studies, Ana Luleva focuses on gender and its social construction in the Bulgarian village, gender images in the village and women in the small Bulgarian towns³⁸. Another topic of research for the author in the period from the liberation to the World

153–175; eadem, “Lekarkite v balgarskata socialna modernizaciya (1878–1944)”, *Trudove Na SVUBIT*, no. 6, 2007, 395–411; eadem, “Kulturnata recepciya na zhenskiya periodichen pechat v Bylgariya (30–60-te godini na XX v.): Opit za rekonstrukciya po dannii ot chasten arhiv”, *Izdatel*, no. 3–4, 2007, 11–20; eadem, “Bulgarian Women Medical Doctors in the Social Modernization of the Bulgarian Nation State (1878–1944)”, *Historical Social Research/ Historische Sozialforschung*, 33, no. 2, 2008, 232–248; eadem, “Zhenite i akademichnata vlast: po primera na balgarskite visshi uchilishta (20–50-te god. na XX v.)”, *Istoricheski Pregled*, no. 5–6, 2010, 110–136; eadem, “Zhenite prevodachki v kulturnata modernizaciya na Bylgariya, 1878–1944”, in: Pietr Parishkov (ed.), *Knigata i nacionalnata identichnost*, (Sofia: Za bukvite, 2004), 197–212; eadem, “Nezhelani, neudobni, neprispособimi: pionerkite v balgarskata nauka, 20–50-te god. na XX v.”, in: Milena Kirova and Kornelia Slavova (eds.), *Rod i red v Balgarskata Kultura*, (Sofia: Fondatsia „Tsentar za izsledvaniya i politiki za zhenite”, 2005), 10–26; eadem, “Zhenskiyat intelektualen elit i feminizmat v Bylgariya (kraya na XIX – sredata na XX v.)”, *Balkan Conference of Young Scientists 16–18.06.2005. Scientific Researches of the Union of Scientists – Plovdiv*, vol. 6, no. Series B, 2006, 242–247; eadem, “Obrazat na bylgarskata zhena v kulturno-istoricheskoto nasledstvo na Sofiya”, in: *Sofiya i neinoto kulturno-istoricheskoto nasledstvo*, (Sofia: ITUS 98 EOOD, 2008), 127–130; eadem, “Muslim Women and Women's Movement in Bulgaria (1940–1960s)”, in: Kristina Popova et al. (eds.), *Women and Minorities Archives: Ways of Archiving*, vol. 1, (Sofia-Vienna: SEMARSh, 2009), 123–132; eadem, “Predstavitelki na neuniversitetskata pedagogicheska misal: Krakat okolo sp. ‘Uchilishten Pregled’ (20–40-te godini na XX v.)”, in: *120 g. Sofiyski Universitet „Sv. Kliment Ohridski” i razvitie na pedagogicheskata nauka*, (Sofia: Universitetsko izdatelstvo “Sv. Kliment Ohridski”, 2008), 398–403; eadem, “Zhenite v balgarskata nauka: tradicii i savremenni problemi”, in: *Natsionalen forum za naukata „Balgarski debati”*, (Sofia, n.d.), 212–222; eadem, “Zhenite v nagradnata sistema na Balgariya (30-te – 50-te godini na XX vek)”, in: Krassimira Daskalova and Tatiana Kmetova (eds.), *Pol i prehod: 1938–1958*, (Sofia: Tsentar za izsledvaniya i politiki za zhenite, 2011), 53–76; eadem, “Balkanite kato ‘nauchna periferiya’ ili ‘nauchen tsentar’: akademichnite migracii na zhenite ucheni ot Balkanite (XIX–XX v.)”, *Balkanistic Forum*, no. 1, 2012, 37–50.

³⁷ Krassimira Daskalova and Georgeta Nazarska, *Zhensko dvizhenie i feminizmi v Balgariya (sredata na XIX – sredata na XX vek) / Women's Movement and Feminisms in Modern Bulgaria (1850s – 1940s)*, (Sofia: Polis, 2006).

³⁸ Ana Luleva, “Brachniyat izbor v avtobiografichnite razkazi. Kam sotsialnoto konstruirane na kategoriyata ‘pol’ v balgarskoto selo prez parvata polovina na XX v.”, in: *Zhizneniyat tsikal. Dokladi ot balgaro-srabska nauchna konferentsiya. 12–16 Yuni 2000*, (Sofia: BAN, 2000), 65–74; eadem, “Obrazi na polovete v balgarskoto selo prez XX v.”, *Balgarska Etnologiya*, no. 2, 2001, 26–40; eadem, “Zhenite v malkiya balgarski grad (XIX – nachaloto na XX v.)”, in: Zorica Divac (ed.), *Obichaji Zhivotnog Ciklusa u Gradskoj Sredini*, (Beograd: EI SANU, 2002), 217–227.

War II is the modernization of the society through the prism of women's societies in Bulgaria³⁹. Ina Pachamanova is interested in the tradition and modernization in the position of women in the Bulgarian family⁴⁰. It should be noted that the authors mentioned here research the history of women during the period of socialism. Snezhana Dimitrova from other hand is interested in women's emancipation through the lenses of women's revolts during the World War I⁴¹.

Although at first glance the era of communism is not a subject of voluminous monographs related to women, the Bulgarian historiography is not devoid of researches on this topic, and the prospect is that they will increase over time. Initially, the period was avoided by the researchers because the coming of the communists to power put an end to the organized women's movement in the country. This happened because the BKP replaced the bourgeois women's organizations with cationic ones. This process has been carefully studied by Iliyana Marcheva⁴². She also deals with the relationship between women's organizations and the government during the era of socialism, with notable female politicians such as Tsola Dragoycheva and Lyudmila Zhivkova, and with the emancipation of Bulgarian women during the communist period⁴³.

³⁹ Ana Luleva, "Blagotvoritelnost, obrazovanie, grizha. Zhenskite družestva i modernizatsiyata na balgarskoto obshtestvo (70-te godini na XIX – 40-te godini na XX v.)", *Nachalata na balgarskata modernost. Revolyutsionni idei i vsekidnevni praktiki. Regionalen istoricheski muzej Ruse. Izvestiya*, no. 21, 2019, 106–120.

⁴⁰ Ina Pachamanova, "Traditsiya i modernizatsiya v polozhenieto na zhenata v balgarskoto semeystvo ot Vazrazhdaneto do sredata na XX vek", *Collegium Historicum*, 1, 2011, 485–503.

⁴¹ Snezhana Dimitrova, "Dayte ni mazhete, pusnete gi da si doydai i te shte ni nameryat vsichko, koeto ni tryabva" – Parvata svetovna voyna, zhenskite buntove i politikite na zhen-ska emantsipatsiya", *Sotsiologicheski Problemi*, no. 2, 2018, 631–674.

⁴² Iliyana Marcheva, "Zhenskoto dvizhenie i negovata sadba prez perioda sept. 1944 – yuni 1945 g.", *Minalo*, no. 1, 2005, 63–73.; eadem, "Istorijata na edna predizvestena smyrt ili krajat na organiziranoto zhensko dvizhenie v Bylgariya (1944–1950)", *Epohi*, no. 2, 1998, 52–63.

⁴³ Iliyana Marcheva, "Mazhkite momicheta v kragovrata na promenite. Balgarkata prez vtorata polovina na XX vek", in: Krasimira Daskalova and Rayna Gavrilova (eds.), *Granitsi na grazhdanstvoto: evropeyskite zheni mezhdu traditsiyata i modernostta*, (Sofia: LIK, 2001), 318–331; eadem, "Balgarskata leydi Stalin". Tsola Dragoycheva", in: Maria Radeva (ed.), *Balgarski darzhavnitsi 1944–1989*, (Sofia: Skorpio VI, 2005), 117–130; eadem, "Tsola Dragoycheva – yarka figura ot parvite godini na Otechestveniya front", in: Iskra Baeva (ed.), *Istoriya na Otechestveniya Front/Sayuz v Bulgariya*, vol. 2 (Sofia: Universitetsko izdatelstvo "Sv. Kl. Ohridski", 2012); eadem, "Prosveteniya absolyutizam". Lyudmila Zhivkova" in: Maria Radeva (ed.), *Balgarski Darzhavnitsi 1944–1989*, (Sofia: Skorpio VI, 2005), 170–183; eadem, "Lyudmila Zhivkova v zhenskoto desetiletie na OON 1976–1985," in: Iskra Baeva (ed.), *Kulturnoto otvaryane na Bulgariya kam sveta. Materiali ot Mezhdunarodnata nauchna*

The women's question in socialist Bulgaria has also been studied by other authors, such as Ana Luleva, Krassimira Daskalova and Petar Vodenicharov⁴⁴. Another thematic area that becomes object of research concerns the socialist Bulgarian state and its legal order through which it regulated the social relations and institutions such as marriage, motherhood and the family. Part of the research is also devoted to the problem of single mothers, illegitimate children and abandoned children⁴⁵. The women from the minorities, the repressed and declared enemies of the regime, as well as the question of the left about them archival evidences in the traditional historical archives are topics that interests Nurie Mu-

konferentsiya po povod 70 godini ot rozhdenieto na Lyudmila Zhiivkova, (Sofia: Universitetsko izdatelstvo „Sv. Kl. Ohridski“, 2013), 92–102; eadem, “Emantsipatsiyata pri sotsializma: balgarskata vav varhovete na vlastta”, in: *Interdistsiplinarni dialozi. Sbornik v chest na A. Zapryanova*, (Sofia: Institut po istoriya, 2009), 173–201; eadem, “Zhenski organizatsii i vlast: balgarskiyat sluchay 1944–1990”, in: *Savremennata zheni – roli i obrazi*, (Blagoevgrad: Universitetsko izdatelstvo „N. Rilski“, 2010), 36–44; eadem, “Komitetat na balgarskite zheni v politicheskata sistema na NRB (1950–1958)”, *Izvestiya na Istoricheskoto druzhestvo*, no. 41, 2011, 404–423; eadem, “Za ‘opekanskoto predstavitelstvo’ na zhenite v Bulgariya 1944–1958”, in: Krassimira Daskalova and Tatiana Kmetova (eds.), *Pol i prehod 1938–1958*, (Sofia: Tsentar za izsledvaniya i politiki za zhenata, 2011), 203–221.

⁴⁴ Ana Luleva, “Zhenskiyat vapros’ v sotsialisticheska Bulgariya. Ideologiya, politika, realnost”, in: *Sotsializmat – Realnost i Ilyuzii. Etnologichni aspekti na vsekidnevната kultura. Sbornik dokladi ot Mezhdunarodna nauchna konferentsiya*, (Sofia: BAN Etnografski institut s muzey, 2003), 155–175; eadem, “Konstruirovanie gendera v bolgarskom sotsialisticheskome proekte. Zhenskiy vopros”, *Zhenshtina v rossiyskom obshtestve*, no. 1–2, 2005, 34–55; Krassimira Daskalova, “Darzhavniyat feminizam na darzhavniya sotsializam: contradiction in terminis!”, in: Krassimira Daskalova and Tatiana Kmetova (eds.), *Pol i prehod: 1938–1958*, (Sofia: Tsentar za izsledvane na zhenite, 2011), 330–338; Petar Vodenicharov, “Bulgariya prez 70-te godini – natsionalizam, modernizatsiya, emantsipatsiya? Kriticheski diskursen analiz na totalitarnite politiki na pametta”, *Balkanistic Forum*, no. 1–2–3, 2002, 104–119.

⁴⁵ Ina Pachamanova, “Razhdaemost i darzhavna politika (Balgarskite zakoni ot perioda na sotsializma)”, in: *Razhdaemostta v Bulgariya i Darzhavnata Politika. Sb. Dokladi Ot Nauchna Konferentsiya s Mezhdunarodno Uchastie*, (Sofia: Tsentar za izsledvane na naselenieto BAN, 2009), 592–610; eadem, “Zhenata i semeystvoto v zakonite na sotsialisticheska Bulgariya”, in: Veselin Tepavicharov (ed.), *Ethnologia Academica, 5. Moderni i Postmoderni Etyudi v Etnologiyata i Antropologiyata*, (Sofia: IK Gutenberg, 2010), 61–85; eadem, *Predishniyat prehod. Zhenata i semeystvoto pri sotsializma. Zakoni, darzhavna politika i terenno prouchvane ot edno balgarsko selo*, (Sofia: Ciela, 2015); Anelia Kasabova, “‘Svoi (?) v golemiya dom’. Za (ne-)reshenite problemi na domovete ‘Mayka i dete’ v sotsialisticheska Bulgariya”, in: *Arhivi na zheni i maltsinstva. Subekti na arhivirane*, vol. 3, (Blagoevgrad: Universitetsko izdatelstvo, 2011), 171–236; eadem, “‘Samotnata mayka’ v Bulgariya – mezhdu stigmatizirane i geroizirane. Protivorechivata politika na sotsialisticheskata darzhava kam izvanbrachnata razhdaemost”, in: Kristina Popova and Milena Angelova (eds.), *Obshtestveno podpomagane i sotsialna rabota v Bulgariya: Istoriya, institutsii, ideologii, imena*, (Blagoevgrad, 2005), 149–164.; eadem, “Neue alte Normen. Die versuchte Normierung der Sexualität im sozialistischen Bulgarien”, *Ethnologia Balkanica*, no. 8, 2004, 155–175.

ratova. She devoted articles and a monograph to them⁴⁶. In co-authorship with Zeynep Zafer, she also published a book dedicated to the Bulgarian Turkologist Mefkyure Abdulova-Mollova, in which her scientific and life path is examined, as well as the problems she faced in communist Bulgaria from a feminist point of view⁴⁷. The issues of women in labour camps, the marginalization of Bulgarian women in the societies of the fighters against the fascism and the images of Bulgarian women during the socialist period attract the attention of Ana Luleva, Petar Vodenicharov and Evgeniya Blagoeva-Krasteva⁴⁸. Pavlina Solachka deals with the daily working life of women at the end of the communist period⁴⁹.

Since socialism in Bulgaria as a field of research continues to be studied in depth by Bulgarian historians, the research devoted to women will continue to increase. The transition to democracy and a market economy, which began with the changes of 1989, provoked historians to study how it affected women and gender equality, what standards were imposed in society and what were their effects⁵⁰.

⁴⁶ Nurie Muratova, "(Bez)opasnite vragove na rezhima: neizvestnite istorii na tri izvestni zheni ot zemedelskoto dvizhenie", *Balkanistic Forum*, no. 3, 2019, 310–324; eadem, "Muslim Women in Socialist Bulgaria", *Balkanistic Forum* no. 2, 2013, 128–149; eadem, *Zheni ot vad arhiva. Nevidimite istorii na zhenite v Balgariya*, (Blagoevgrad: Universitetsko izdatelstvo „Neofit Rilski", 2021).

⁴⁷ Nurie Muratova and Zeynep Zafer, *Mefkyure Mollova: tyurkologiya v izgnanie. Biografichno izsledvane*, (Blagoevgrad: Universitetsko izdatelstvo „Neofit Rilski", 2022).

⁴⁸ Ana Luleva, "Zhenite lageristki. Za kolektivnata pamet na edno pokolenie", in: Krassimira Daskalova and Tatiana Kmetova (eds.), *Pol i Prehod 1938–1958*, (Sofia: Tsentar za izsledvaniya i politiki za zhenite, 2011), 142–153; Petar Vodenicharov, "Marginalizatsiya na zhenite v 'Druzhestvata na boytsite protiv fashizma' prez 40-te i 50-te godini na XX vek – stariyat patriarhalizam v novata antifashistka retorika", in: Krassimira Daskalova and Tatiana Kmetova (eds.), *Pol i Prehod: 1938–1958*, (Sofia: Tsentar za izsledvaniya i politiki za zhenite, 2011), 235–242; Evgeniya Blagoeva-Krasteva, "Obrazite na balgarkata v epohata na sotsializma", in: *Sotsializmat – Realnost i ilyuzii. Etnologichni aspekti na vsekidnevната kultura. Sbornik dokladi ot Mezhdunarodna nauchna konferentsiya*, (Sofia: Etnografski institut s muzey – BAN, 2003), 182–190.

⁴⁹ Pavlina Solachka, "Trudovoto vsekidnevnie na zhenite v perioda na kasniya sotsializam. Primerat na TK 'Pirin' – Blagoevgrad", in: *XIV natsionalni filologicheski cheteniya za studenti i doktoranti v chest na svetite bratya Kiril i Metodiy*, (Yugozapaden universitet, Filologicheski fakultet, 2020), 117–121.

⁵⁰ Ana Luleva, "Transformation and Gender Arrangements in Postsocialist Bulgaria", *Ethnologia Bulgarica*, no. 3, 2006, 12–23; Ana Luleva, "Rabota, semeystvo, pol v perioda na prehod", in: Krassimira Daskalova and Tatiana Kmetova (eds.) *Pol i prehod*, (Sofia: Tsentar za izsledvaniya i politiki za zhenite, 2008), 112–145; Ana Luleva, "Neformalen trud i ravenstvo mezhdu polovete v postsotsialisticheskoto balgarsko obshtestvo", *Balgarska Etnologiya*, no. 2, 2008, 53–67; Ana Luleva, "The informal economy's contribution to gender inequality in Bulgaria", in:

Conclusion

In conclusion should be mentioned that in a short period of thirty years Bulgarian historiography succeeded to develop a new research field and to produce valuable researches in a form of articles, monographs, edited collections, published historical sources, brochures and others. They cover the whole chronological frame of the Bulgarian history. It should be mentioned that some periods are better developed in these researches than others, but at the same time there is a clear tendency of enlargement of the number of works dedicated to the women's history. If this new and modern for Bulgarian historiography field continues to attract historians in the future, we could finally see women's history studies as part of the program of the Historical Departments in Bulgarian universities.

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Christina Klenner and Simone Leib (eds.), *Welfare States and Gender Inequality in Central and Eastern Europe*, (Brussels: European Trade Union Institute, 2010), 53–67; Anelia Kasabova, "Feminizam ili zhenstvenost. Idealat za „uspyalata“ zhena po materiali ot balgarskata presa (1990–2003)", in: R. Ivanova (ed.), *Vsekidnevната kultura na balgarite i sarbite v postsotsialisticheskiya period*, (Sofia: BAN Etnografski institut s muzey, 2005), 133–141; Iliyana Marcheva, "Zhenata v Balgariya v kraya na XX i nachaloto na XXI vek: kriza na identichnostta", in: Natalia Hristova (ed.), *Kodovete na sotsializma v postsotsializma*, vol. 121–153 (Sofia: Nov Balgarski Universitet, 2014); Krassimira Daskalova, "Zhenite v balgarskite uchebnitsi po istoriya", in: Krassimira Daskalova and Kornelia Slavova (eds.), *Zhenski identichnosti na Balkanite*, (Sofia: Polis, 2004), 1–14; Krassimira Daskalova, "Die Einschluss und Ausschluss von Frauen in bulgarischen Geschichtsbuechern der 1990er Jahre", *L'Homme. Europaeische Zeitschrift Fuer Feministische Geschichtswissenschaft*, 15, no. 2, 2004, 331–343.

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