

## R E P O R T

on the scientific production and other scientific activities of Ass. Prof. Dr. Boris Stoyanov, participant in the competition for the academic post of "Assoc. Professor" in scientific specialty 2.2. History and Archaeology, specialty "Contemporary World History" (History of European integration), for the needs of the Faculty of History of Sofia University, announced by the State Gazette, # 61 of 2 Augusty 2022  
by Prof. Iskra Baeva PhD, Lecturer in Contemporary History at the Faculty of History, Sofia University „Kliment Ohridski"

The only candidate for the academic position "Associate Professor" in the Faculty of History of Sofia University is Ass. Prof. Dr. Boris Stoyanov. He has a long professional career as a history lecturer - first as a high school teacher (1999-2007), and then at the Faculty of History from 2007 to the present day, where in addition to teaching (leading seminar classes and lecturing) he is also an organizer of master's programs, as well as a participant in research projects.

### **1. Personal data of the contest participant**

Ass. prof. Dr. Boris Stoyanov graduated from the Faculty of History of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" in 2001 with specialization in modern world history. After a competition he was enrolled as a PhD student at the Faculty of History of Sofia University with the topic "Building of United Europe, 1948-1957" and scientific supervisor Prof. Dr. Dragomir Draganov, which he defended in 2006. After a new competition in 2007, Dr. Boris Stoyanov was appointed Senior Assistant Professor of Modern History in the Department of Modern and Contemporary History. In the following years, he taught seminars and lectured in several courses in the Faculty of History, the Faculty of Law, as well as the Faculties of Classical and New Philology and Journalism and Mass Communication. The academic path of Asst. Dr. Boris Stoyanov until 2022 clearly shows that he is a teacher who has dedicated himself to world history in the long period of modern and contemporary history. This makes him fully suitable for the teaching position for which the competition has been announced.

## **2. General characteristics of the habilitation thesis**

Dr. Boris Stoyanov applied in the competition for associate professor with the habilitation thesis "Europe before Europe. The Projects of the Third Power, the European Federation and the United States of Europe and their Destiny, 1945-1949", published in 2022 by the University Press "St. Kliment Ohridski". The total volume of the book is 328 pages, The study is devoted to the discussion of various plans for the future of Western Europe. The ideas, disputes and actions of elites in the leading European countries, but especially in the main Western victor in the war, the United States, are presented. The chronological scope of the study has been aptly chosen, from the end of World War II to 1949, when the Cold War scuppered the initial ideas of a new role for Europe and the realistic idea of unifying the western half of the Old Continent gradually took shape. The habilitation thesis shows that Dr. Boris Stoyanov has continued his research from the dissertation, although for the previous period (there is some overlap of the chronological period of the dissertation - 1948-1957, with that of the habilitation - 1945-1949).

The research is based on a solid historiographical and source base. Dr Stoyanov has used and conscientiously cited mainly foreign researchers who have dealt more generally or more specifically with the initial stages of European integration. Notable, however, is the lack of a historiographical review of the documentary, scholarly, memoir and other literature, as well as the research methodology, which could have been presented in the introductory part of the book.

The structure of Dr. Boris Stoyanov's habilitation thesis is subordinated to the problem-chronological approach, with the first two chapters presenting the intra-European development of ideas for the unification of Western Europe in the new geopolitical situation after the end of the Second World War, while in the third and fourth chapters the author focuses on the ideas and actions of the United States in relation to Europe in view of the American strategy for supremacy in the Cold War with the Soviet Union. In fact, although the title directs the reader to Europe ("Europe before Europe"), the exposition devotes predominant space to the actions of President Truman's American administration. As a counterpoint, the book presents the major role played by the Soviet threat in stimulating integration processes in Western Europe.

The overall impression of the book is that it traces in particular detail the changes in international relations in the first postwar period, and from the perspective of the United States. In this sense, it can also be seen as part of the history of international relations.

As with any scientific work, Dr Stoyanov's book is open to comments. Mine are related to a certain discrepancy between the title (and the subtitle), where the USA is not mentioned, but has a large presence in the exposition, as well as to minor issues. It is about the excessive attack on the nation-state, which, according to the author, exhausted its legitimacy in the war years - something that is not confirmed by historical development; the absence of the names of the Polish and Finnish prime ministers when quoting their statements; the very long paragraphs (often exceeding 50-60 lines). The structuring of the chapters into paragraphs would only have been helpful in making the book more comprehensible.

In some places, the emotional approach hinders objectivity. This leads to idealising both federalism and the goals of various foreign policy projects, ignoring the natural interests of each country. An example of this is the sentence, "Americans understand engagement with world problems as the fulfillment of the apostolic mission to spread democracy and defend it from the dark forces of dictatorship" (p. 150).

My overall assessment of Dr Boris Stoyanov's habilitation thesis is that it meets the requirements and shows a deepening and broadening of his scientific interests in the direction of international relations.

### **3. Research activities and publications**

Apart from the monograph, fulfilling the functions of a habilitation thesis, prof. as. Dr. Boris Stoyanov participated in the competition for "Associate Professor" with a series of his other publications, whose issues repeat, deepen or complement the general trend of his scientific activities.

The most numerous and important for the competition scientific articles of Dr. Boris Stoyanov are dedicated to different stages of European integration. These are:

„Война или мир: Планът *Шуман* през погледа на Париж, Москва и Вашингтон” (Исторически личности и идеи (съст. Евгения Калинова). УИ „Св. Климент Охридски“, 2011, с. 306–318); „„Меденият месец“ на Западна Европа: Европейската интеграция в периода 1958–1962 г.” (Интеграционните процеси през 60-те години на ХХ век (съст. Искра Баева). УИ „Св. Климент Охридски“, 2013, с. 93–109); „От Хага до Париж: (Не)възможната интеграция, 1969–1972 г. (Интеграционните процеси през 70-те години на ХХ век (съст. Искра Баева). УИ „Св. Климент Охридски“, 2014, с. 71–90); „Западна Европа

на кръстопът. Проблеми и предизвикателства пред европейската интеграция през 80-те години на XX в.” (Интеграция и дезинтеграция в Европа през 80-те години на XX век (съст. Искра Баева). УИ „Св. Климент Охридски“, 2016, с. 51–98.); „Срещу държавата: европейската интеграция като средство за отслабване на националната държава в Западна Европа през погледа на историци и политолози от втората половина на XX век” (Държавната идея в модерната епоха (съст. Искра Баева). УИ „Св. Климент Охридски“, 2018, с. 276–295); „Do All Roads Lead to Rome?” (Shikova, Ingrid (ed.) Together in Europe. Sofia, 2007, pp. 40–48); „Европейският съюз в междучасието на българското училище. Европейската интеграция в учебниците по История и цивилизация за X клас” (Посланията на историята (съст. Георги Якимов). УИ „Св. Климент Охридски“, 2016, с. 417–426).

Different moments of international relations in the years of World War II Dr. Stoyanov presents in the articles: „Проблемите на европейското единство в политиката на Великобритания и Съветския съюз, 1941–1944 г.” (Големите конфликти на XX век. Т. 2 Втората световна война: 70 години по-късно (съст. Искра Баева). УИ „Св. Климент Охридски“, 2018, с. 41–58); „Обединена Европа в плановете на антихитлеристкия лагер в годините на Втората световна война” (История в преход. (съст. Борис Стоянов и Гергана Алексиева). УИ „Св. Климент Охридски“, 2008, с. 137–150); „Единна в многообразието: Някои наблюдения върху европейската интеграция през втората половина на XX век” (Краят на Студената война и европейската интеграция/дезинтеграция през 90-те години на XX век (съст. Евгения Калинова). УИ „Св. Климент Охридски“, 2019, с. 86–99);

Again, the publications are devoted to issues related to the fate of Europe in the first post-war years: „Федералистите и тяхната мечта за единна Европа непосредствено след края на Втората световна война” (Предизвикателствата на промяната (съст. Искра Баева и Пламен Митев). УИ „Св. Климент Охридски“, 2006, с. 374–388); „Идеята за Европа като Трета световна сила, 1945–1948 г.” (Анамнеза, 2007, № 1, online); „Трудният път на наднационалната власт в следвоенна Западна Европа, 1948-1950 г.” (С поглед към света и България (съст. Евгения Калинова) УИ „Св. Климент Охридски“, 2019, с. 96–111); „1945 година: Изгубеният мир” (Трийсет години от падането на тоталитарния режим: Коя България „загубихме“? (съст. Антон Тодоров). ИК Изток–Запад, 2020, с. 285–319); „1953 – “Шанс за мира”? Американският подход към диалога Изток–Запад” (Проблемът Изток–

Запад: Историческа перспектива (съст. Тамара Стоилова, Виолина Атанасова и др.). Парадигма, 2003, с. 668–677).

And the earlier periods of European history: modern history, the First World War and the interwar period are dealt with in the three articles, the first of which is a preface to a collection: „Ранното ново време като период в европейската история?” (Ранно модерна Европа: граници и противоречия (съст. Тина Георгиева, Албена Симова и Любомир Кръстев). УИ „Св. Климент Охридски“, 2022); „Краят на империите” (Големите конфликти на XX век. Т. 1 Първата световна война: век по-късно (съст. Искра Баева). УИ „Св. Климент Охридски“, 2016, с. 121–126); „Регионалното между националното и глобалното в Европа на 20-те и 30-те години на XX век” (Кюстендилски четения 2003 – 2004 (съст. Венета Милушева и др.). ИК Фабер, 2006, с. 86–100).

These publications, as well as his participation in the compilation of two collections, show the breadth of Dr. Boris Stoyanov's scientific activity, which exceeds the requirements of the professional field in which the competition was announced.

#### **4. Evaluation of the participant's teaching and other activities**

As this is a competition for the academic post of Associate Professor at a university, the candidate's teaching experience and skills are particularly important.

Dr. Boris Stoyanov's academic record shows that since the academic year he has prepared and delivered lecture courses and seminars on New and Contemporary History, History of Europe, History of European Integration, Diplomacy and Conflict Resolution in the EU, Political Systems of the Twentieth Century, Bel Epoch - Power and Society in Europe in the Early Twentieth Century, State of Israel, USA and EU - Political and Economic Relations, War and Diplomacy in World Conflicts in the Twentieth Century. Patterns of Integration and Disintegration in Europe after 1945, Contemporary Diplomacy - Theory and Practice, EU and the Euro-Atlantic Community: Challenges and Solutions, Great Conflicts in the Making of "Little Europe", Transatlantic Aspects of Contemporary History, USA after World War I: Patterns of Political and Socio-Economic Development, The European Nineteenth Century as a Mirror of the Bulgarian Renaissance, Western Europe Region, Current Issues of International Relations and Security in Modern and Postmodern History, The Contemporary World: Problems

and Contradictions. This employment and the diversity of the prepared courses shows the need of the Faculty of History of Sofia University for a habilitated lecturer.

Dr. Stoyanov has prepared as a scientific supervisor a number of graduates who have successfully defended their theses in the field of modern and contemporary history. He has also participated in the preparation of textbooks for high school education in History and Civilizations.

Dr. Boris Stoyanov has also participated in scientific projects related to his field of research interests. We are talking about the series of research projects that we led together and were devoted to the integration processes in the decades after the Second World War.

The many years of teaching activity of Dr. Boris Stoyanov shows his readiness to become a habilitated lecturer at the Faculty of History of Sofia University.

### **5. Evaluation of the scientific indicators**

The scientific-metric indicators of prof. as. Dr. Boris Stoyanov show that he meets the minimum national requirements for the academic position "Associate Professor" in Area 2. Humanities, Professional field 2.2. History and Archaeology, as defined in the Regulations. He has a defended dissertation (Group A - 50 points), a habilitation thesis with which he participated in the competition (Group B - 100 points), other publications (Group C - 235 points), and citations (Group D - 65 points).

### **6. Conclusion**

The analysis of the habilitation thesis of prof. as. Dr. Boris Stoyanov, the review of his publications, as well as my personal scientific contacts with him give me grounds to recommend to the scientific jury of Dr Boris Stoyanov to be awarded the academic position of Associate Professor in the professional field 2.2. History and Archaeology (Modern History. History of European Integration) for the needs of the Faculty of History of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

I hereby declare that I will vote for the award of the academic position of Associate Professor to Asst. Dr Boris Stoyanov.

22 November 2022 r.

Assessor:

(Prof. Dr. Искра Баева)