

# **R E V I E W**

by Prof. Nadia Boyadjieva. Doctor of Sciences in “International Law and International Relations” at the Institute of Balkan Studies & Centre of Thracology "Prof. Alexander Fol" of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

of the materials submitted for participation in a competition for the academic position of "associate professor" in field of higher education 2. Humanitarian sciences, professional direction 2.2 History and Archaeology, scientific field: Contemporary History: History of European Integration

## **1. General presentation of the procedure**

By Order of the Rector of the Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" RD 38-569/03.10.2022, I am appointed as a member of the scientific jury in the procedure announced in the State Gazette, no. 61 from 02.08.2022, for the needs of the Faculty of History at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”, competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 2. Humanitarian sciences, professional direction 2.2. History and Archeology (Contemporary History: History of European Integration).

There is only one candidate in the announced competition: chief assistant – Dr. Boris Kirilov Stoyanov from the Department of "Modern and Contemporary History" at the Faculty of History of the Sofia University.

The documents and materials submitted by chief assistant Dr. Boris Kirilov Stoyanov meet the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its Application, as well as the Regulations on the terms and conditions for acquiring scientific degrees and occupying academic positions at the SU "St. Kliment Ohridski".

The candidate Boris Kirilov Stoyanov has also presented documents certifying his educational, professional, and teaching training.

## **2. Presentation of the candidate and description of the candidate's activities (teaching and professional experience in connection with the announced competition)**

Boris Stoyanov was born in Sofia. He received his higher education at SU with a major in history (1995 – 2001) and a specialization in Contemporary History. He received an educational and scientific "doctoral" title – Ph.D. in Modern and Contemporary History (Higher Attestation Commission, 2006) with a dissertation devoted to the European integration in the period 1948-1956.

Boris Stoyanov has a long teaching experience as a full-time assistant professor in the Faculty of History of the Sofia University. He has held successively the academic positions of assistant, senior assistant, and chief assistant in the Faculty of History of the Sofia University since his entry into Sofia University in 2007 (Certificate Ex. No. 251/08.09.2022 from the Human Resources Department at SU). The teaching activity of Boris Stoyanov is expressed in his active work initially as assistant professor and a lecturer of Modern History, and subsequently of Contemporary History.

In addition, he is also an author of textbooks on History and Civilization. His textbooks (5) and teaching materials (3) are considered and contribute to the overall positive assessment of the applicant's activity.

From the documents and materials, he presented, it can be concluded that Boris Stoyanov worked for many years with students, graduates and doctoral students. His high professionalism as a historian, his commitment to teaching and his civic position have been repeatedly demonstrated in his public appearances in the media space on cultural and historical topics (20).

### **3. Evaluation of the candidate's scientific and applied science activity**

The candidate has presented a list of works for participation in the competition – a total of 19 works. 17 scientific works that are outside the dissertation for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "doctor" are accepted for review and are taken into account in the final evaluation.

Boris Stoyanov's scientific interests in the field of Modern and Contemporary World History are with a focus on the history of European integration and the European idea. At the same time, from the presented for evaluation list of the candidate's works, it is clear that his research range is wider than the stated problems of the competition.

The monograph *Europe before Europe. The Projects for the Third Power, the European Federation and the United States of Europe, 1945 – 1949*, Sofia: University Publishing House "St. Kliment Ohridski", 2022, which is presented as a habilitation thesis deserves special attention.

The title of the study, in addition to being intriguing, reflects the broad scale of the topics and issues under consideration. In 328 pages, the content of the book is structured into an introduction, four chapters and a conclusion, notes, Bibliography and Summary in English.

In the Introduction "QUO VADIS, EUROPA?" the author intriguingly presents his reflections on Europe's path after World War II. Chapter One, ARBITER MUNDI: Britain, France and the Mirage of the Third Force, explores the complex relationship between the two leading European powers, Britain and France, against the backdrop of a devastated post-war Europe. The main task of the author is to trace the Franco-British initiatives for the common idea of creating a bilateral union that would become a unifier of European democracies. The author's attention is drawn to the ideas of the upgrading of the Entente and the creation of a "Euro-

French block" that would turn European countries into a "Third World Force" and as an alternative to the Soviet and American models. Exploring the birth of a Western Union in 1948, the author traces how the idea of an alternative model was abandoned, and European democracies turned to the United States as a guarantor of their security.

In the second chapter, "Ideas of (con)federation and the European unity movements", Boris Stoyanov analyzes the behavior of the two main currents in the movements for European unity - the federalists and the unionists.

In the third chapter - "The U.S. policy on European unification before the Marshall Plan", the emphasis is placed on the American policy towards Western Europe in the first two years after the Second World War and on the Marshall Plan.

The last, fourth chapter - "More desirable than feasible: American design for the United States of Europe and its failure", is devoted to the relations between the Western European democracies and the United States in the conditions of the post-war reconstruction of Europe.

Boris Stoyanov has comprehensively indicated the scientific contributions of his habilitation work and in the scientific studies from the list of works for review. I find that he has made a critical and honest assessment of his scientific contributions, and I accept them.

The monograph has undoubted scientific contributions. Here I indicate only some of them, which places it among the most important works on the complex processes in European international relations in the first post-war decade, as follows:

- The monograph is the first large-scale, in-depth, scientific study in the Bulgarian specialized literature of European integration in the chronological period chosen by Stoyanov and thus deserves a high evaluation.

- The monograph represents a reliable scientific work based exclusively on declassified documentary sources in published volumes and first-class secondary research.
- The monograph synthesizes and enriches with original interpretations the existing knowledge on the subject in Bulgarian historical literature and presents the conclusions of a modern scholar regarding the complex path of European unification efforts, their specific manifestations in the historical situation after the Second World War.
- The monograph has scholarly as well as practical application. It can be used as a basic book for the study of European integration not only for specialists in various fields, but also in qualification courses for training diplomats and specialists in various ministries and departments (such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria).
- The practical applicability of the work is also expressed in the possibility that it can be used in the educational process at a university in the majors of history, international relations, European studies, Balkan studies, and others. For example, the in-depth analysis of US motives in the Marshall Plan (Chapter Three) can serve as a first-class source of information for students to help them understand American policy in the difficult conditions of post-World War II Europe. We find similar examples of comprehensive, complete, and well-presented analysis of various issues in all chapters of the book.

The author's studies and articles submitted for evaluation demonstrate the candidate's permanent interest in various aspects of the problems

of European integration, including the role of "external factors" for Europe such as the USA and the USSR. The general assessment of the publications is positive.

It is not possible in the study of such a complex subject to be fully exhaustive in one monograph, regardless of its high qualities, some of which I have indicated. The following recommendations can be made:

1. I would appreciate to see a wider range of documentary sources, especially since many archives in Europe and North America have declassified the large majority of their relevant collections. In this sense, I hope Stoyanov in the future will enrich his works with more documents from British, French, and American archives.
2. In chapter three, a sufficient general picture of the post-1945 situation in Europe is not given, especially regarding the Eastern European countries and the policy of the USSR in Europe. I would like to see more about the Soviet clampdown in Eastern Europe and its impact on US policy in Western Europe, which is largely omitted by Stoyanov. US policy can be better understood by considering the global picture of international relations in the immediate aftermath of the War.
3. He overstates the extent to which the United States had decided to involve itself in European affairs over the long term, especially through the deployment of large numbers of U.S. troops in Europe. In reality, the U.S. government's decision to maintain a strong, long-term military presence in Europe did not come until after the outbreak of the Korean War, which had a far-reaching impact on U.S. national security policy, as discussed in Samuel F. Wells's Jr. recent

book *Fearing the Worst: Fearing the Worst: How Korea Transformed the Cold War*, New York: Columbia University Press, 2020.

These recommendations in no way affect the high value of this work.

The overall scientific output of the candidate and his academic work deserve a high rating. The quality of the scientific production, the modern presentation of existing knowledge and the original contributions of Boris Stoyanov are also proven by the reflection of their results in the works of other scientists. This is evidenced by the observed citations, which are in substance and are in reputable scientific journals and collections, indicated in the provided by Stoyanov Reference with the citations attached to cover the minimum national requirements, according to indicators D13 and D14.

The quantitative indicators of the criteria for occupying the academic position of "associate professor" have been met, as can be seen from the attached Reference for the fulfillment of the minimum national requirements under Art. 2b of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria for the professional direction 2.2. History and Archaeology.

The author's critical assessment, civil position and high professionalism distinguish the overall scientific and teaching activity of chief assistant Dr. Boris Stoyanov.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

The candidate in the competition has submitted a sufficient number of scientific works published after the materials used in the defense of his

educational and scientific "doctoral" degree. The candidate's works have original scientific and scientific-applied contributions and practical applicability, some of which are directly oriented to academic work, and his scientific and teaching qualifications are indisputable.

The above allows me to give a well-deserved "positive" vote and recommend to the Scientific Jury to prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty council of the Faculty of History for the election of chief assistant Dr. Boris Kirilov Stoyanov, to the academic position of "associate professor" at the Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" in the field of higher education 2. Humanitarian sciences, professional direction 2.2. History and Archeology (Contemporary History: History of European Integration).

Sofia

28 November 2022

Reviewer:

(Prof. Nadia Boyadjieva, D.Sc.)