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THE GREEK NEWSPAPER ANATOLIKOS ASTIR ON POPULATION MIGRATIONS ACROSS THE BULGARIAN LANDS DURING THE NATIONAL REVIVAL

Ventsislav MUCHINOV

*Institute for Population and Human Studies at BAS
“Economic and Historical Demography Section”*

BULGARIA, Sofia 1113, Akad. G. Bonchev St, bl. 6

✉ vencim_80@abv.bg

Abstract. *The article outlines the significance of the Greek periodicals as a source of demographic history of the Bulgarian lands during the National Revival. This significance is clarified by reviewing and analysing the documents on the migrations of the population that inhabited the studied region during the National Revival published in the pages of the Greek newspaper Ανατολικός Αστέρ [Anatolikos Astir], which was issued in Istanbul from 1861 to 1877. This newspaper is among the most long-standing periodicals that were issued in the Ottoman Empire's capital city in the 19th century, and was largely popular across the Bulgarian lands under Ottoman rule.*

Keywords: historical demography; migrations; Bulgarian National Revival; Bulgarian lands; Ottoman Empire; Greek periodicals.

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The scientific sources have imposed the standing that the term *migrations of population* should mean the territorial movements of people associated with an alteration in their residence for a certain time period (Minkov 1972, 1989, 1999; Horev, Chapek 1978; Michev 1978: 55-94; 1994; Kalchev 2001: 15-28; Rybakovsky 2003; Sugareva 2004: 95-100; Yudina 2007; and the references indicated therein). Migrations of population are studied by a number of sciences. Their becoming a subject of historical demography is associated with the circumstance that they influence directly the process of population's reproduction and the dynamics of its number both in this epoch and in the past historical epochs (Shterionov 2012: 125).

The migration issue is seen as one of the most complicated issues in the demographic studies on the Bulgarian lands through the Bulgarian National Revival, i.e. when those lands were still under the Ottoman Empire's rule. Although the foundations of a wholesome Empire's population registering system were laid in the 19th century the official statistics provide no idea of the scope and nature of migration movements. If some stand-alone cases are excluded (such as the Danube Vilayet in the 1860s) it was not until the end of the century when the number of migrants across the Ottoman Empire started to be taken account of (Todorova, Todorov 1987). This is why the issue of the migrations across the Bulgarian lands during the Bulgarian National Revival, when those lands were parts of the Ottoman realm, poses a lot of questions to the researchers and part of these questions are still waiting for their replies (Muchinov, Shterionov, Angelova 2015: 26-30).

To elucidate those questions undertaking purposeful activity is of primordial significance in order to *retrieve and publish sources* relative to the researched agenda be such sources stored in Bulgarian or foreign archival repositories. A key position among such sources is occupied by *the periodicals* issued during the researched epoch. And while the significance of the Bulgarian periodicals as a source for demographic history of Bulgarian lands during the Bulgarian National Revival has already been the subject of several publications (Muchinov 2008, 2011, 2016) the identical significance of the Greek periodicals issued during that epoch is still a territory almost unstudied by Bulgarian historiography¹. It was as late as over the last few years that the Greek newspapers and journals issued in the Ottoman Empire (mostly in its capital, Istanbul) attracted the focused attention of Bulgarian researchers (Shterionov 2013, Muchinov 2014), however there is still a lot of work to be done on the creation of a referencing catalogue, processing and analysis of the historical and demographic information contained therein. And this is precisely the basic goal of the "19th century Greek periodicals: source for demographic history of Bulgarian lands during the Bulgarian National Revival", whose project manager is Prof. DrHabil in Historical Science, S. D. Shterionov, which project was carried out in the period 2012-2016 at the Institute for Population and Human Studies at BAS (Shterionov, Muchinov 2016).

¹ On the Greek periodicals issued in the Ottoman state (in its capital Istanbul, in Smyrna and in some other large Ottoman administrative, economic and commercial centres) in the 19th century, see in more details: Arslan 2004; Ο ελληνικός τύπος 1784 έως σήμερα 2005; Αντωνόπουλος 2007; Σταματόπουλος 2008; Shterionov, Muchinov 2016: 77-94 and the references cited there.