

THE RESEARCH OF THE BULGARIAN HISTORICAL DEMOGRAPHY – STATE AND PERSPECTIVES

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Summary

The current study describes how through a complete analysis on the research of Bulgarian historical demography we determine its place in the Bulgarian historiography. Investigating the historiography devoted on this topic allowed us to reach one main conclusion: despite the results in the research of the demographical history of Bulgaria, it is still in an early stage of its development as a separate domain in the historiography of our country. In order to overpass this stage and to reveal the perspectives in its development we determine the main future tasks for the researchers who would put their efforts in this research field.

Keywords: historical demography, historiography, research of the demographic history of Bulgaria

Historical demography is a comparatively new science. It appeared on the global scientific horizon in 17th c. and its consolidation as an autonomous science refers the end of 19th c. and the early 20th c. As early as in the dawn of its establishment started the formation of its theoretical and methodological framework, and its quintessence, subject-matter, object-matter and time-ordered scope were defined. It became clear that historical demography represented a peculiar sphere of interaction across two sciences, history and demography, which had been consolidated and developed based on matching objectives of these two sciences in the process of studying human kind's demographic history. A status defining the place of this research area in world's historiography.

The situation in Bulgaria has been somewhat different. Although some rudiments for such type of study could be found in writings of Bulgarian authors as early as in 19th c., the integral tracing of the development of the research studies in historical demography of Bulgaria has never been a subject-matter of an independ-

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ent research study so far. The appearance of several works referring to individual stages or to specific issues of this range of reference may not fill in the existing historiographical vacuum (Иванова, 1987: 155-169; Тодорова, М., Тодоров, Н., 1987: 18-46; Щерионов, 2006 – 1: 226-240; Ангелова, 2006, № 1-2: 161-166; Мучинов, 2009 – 1: 125-135; 2010 – 1, № 3-4: 231-241; 2011 – 1: 182-190) .

The existing situation predetermines the main **objective** of this research study, by making an integral analysis of the study of historical demography of Bulgaria to give an answer to the question: has it transformed into a separate historiographical area of research as part of the Bulgarian historiography? Its implementation will be carried out by completing the following **tasks**: 1) identifying the fundamental guidelines in the implementation of this type of studies; 2) outlining the trends in their dynamics and the reasons generating them; 3) designation of the stages the development of this historiographical area of research goes through.

At the same time, with a view of the prospects in its development the fundamental tasks faced by the researchers, who would target their efforts to this scientific area, will be fixed.

The fundamental principle of narrative will be time-ordered, by individual thematic ranges. As regards the writings considered, our strive is, without claiming to achieve any comprehensiveness, to provide for a reliable representation of Bulgarian historiography in each of the fundamental thematic ranges.

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The appearance of research pursuits of Bulgarian authors where characterisations may be found of some individual facets of our demographical history fits into **the National Revival**. Circumstance that makes sense with a view of the fact that that was the time when the fundamentals of our modern historical science were laid.

As regards the demographic development of population inhabiting the Bulgarian lands over *the prehistoric age and Antiquity*, the studies during that period were insignificant and are mainly associated with the names of S. Zahariev, M. Drinov and K. Jireček. In the works of the former two (*Захариев, Ст.*, 1870; *Дринов, М.*, 1873), information may be found, however presented differently from the perspective of the methodology used in the individual research only on the migrations across our lands over the period from the beginning of 1st millennium B.C.E. to mid- 1st millennium C.E. and on the territorial distribution of the tribes inhabiting our territories. Those writings, however limited in their volume, interfere with the basic content and serve the readers as an orientation to the backbone of the range of issues reviewed there.

A different way was chosen (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to present the individual elements of our early demographic history in Jireček's "История на българите" [*History of Bulgarians*] (Иречек, К, 1886.). The reference period is the focus of an individual chapter of this writing. Here, alongside with the issues of population's migration and territorial location, the dynamics in its number, specificities of marriage relationships, family and social structures were investigated as well as the relevant traditional legal rules. At the same time, the focus of attention was turned toward individual elements of population's household routines relevant to their life-