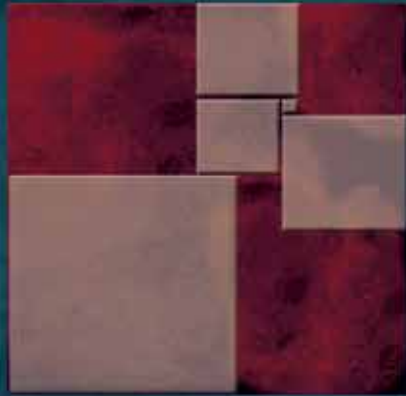


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BALKANIQUES &  
CENTRE DE THRACOLOGIE

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# ÉTUDES BALKANIQUES

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# ÉTUDES BALKANIQUES

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## VIE SCIENTIFIQUE

SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE ON THE URBAN ECONOMY  
IN THE BULGARIAN LANDS THROUGH THE AGES

On September, 30<sup>st</sup> – October, 1<sup>st</sup> 2016 a scientific conference on “*The Urban Economy in the Bulgarian Lands throughout the Ages*” was held in Varna. It was organized by the Department of Social Sciences and Humanities at the University of Economics – Varna in collaboration with the Centre for Economic History Research (CEHR) – a non-profit organization established in 2015 by Bulgarian historians and economists. The event was attended by 27 scholars from various Bulgarian universities and scientific institutions. They presented their research on the urban economy of Bulgaria and the Balkans from the Middle Ages up to Modernity.

The conference was open with a plenary session. Svetlana Ivanova (Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”) delivered the first presentation on the “*Ottoman Tradesmen over Long Distances – Status and Cultural Identity*” in which she analyzed the social position of some Ottoman non-Muslim merchants. In it she emphasised the role of the group of the

Orthodox Greeks as one of the main factors who influenced the Bulgarian commercial elite during XVII – XV – II century.

Milko Palangurski (St. Cyril and St. Methodius University of Veliko Tarnovo) also took part in the plenary session. He delivered a presentation focused on some members of the Bulgarian parliament who were involved in various commercial activities in the Principality of Bulgaria during 1886 – 1899 and who played an important role in the Bulgarian politics on micro and macro levels. M. Palangurski also revealed the place of the Bulgarian merchant class as funder of parties, provider of social networks, and maker of effective political structures on local level.

Petko Petkov (St. Cyril and St. Methodius University of Veliko Tarnovo) was the third participant in the session. He spoke on the financial support of the Bulgarian Orthodox clergy in the Principality of Bulgaria. In his presentation Petkov put an accent on the legislation aspects of this

process and its problems which were resolved in the beginning of the 90s of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The last participant in the plenary session was Pencho Penchev (University of National and World Economy). He delivered the presentation "*The Bulgarian Economists and the Ideas for Balkan and European Economic Integration (1878–1944)*". Pencho Penchev analyzed the economic ideas of some Bulgarian economists, politicians and public figures during the period of the so-called first Bulgarian capitalism. One of the topics which were discussed during the given period was the perspectives and consequences of the economic and political integration of Bulgaria and the other Balkan or European countries.

The plenary session was followed by two parallel panels. The panel "*The Bulgarian urban economy during the 19<sup>th</sup> century – sources, people, theoretical problems*" was attended by Radoslav Spasov (Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"), Ivan Rusev (University of Economics – Varna), Ivaylo Nachev (Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"), Mariana Drumeva (D. A. Tsenov Academy of Economics, Svishtov), Nikolay Todorov (Silistra Regional Museum of History), Rostitsa Zlatinska (University of National and World Economy). They discussed various aspects of the ur-

ban economy in the Bulgarian lands and the Balkans on micro and macro levels, such as the general economic trends in the urban centres in Ottoman Bulgaria, described in the British diplomatic documents between 1800 and 1878; the sources and the historiography on the first factories in the Bulgarian lands until the 80s of the 19 century; the artisan production in the Bulgarian lands according to the documents found in the archive of the Pulievi brothers, prominent Bulgarian merchants; the commercial activity of the Bulgarian Tsvyatko Radoslavov in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century; the organisation and the activities of the Agricultural Cases from the Liberation until the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century; the tax farmers in the Sandzak of Tulcha in the 70s of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The other panel "*The Urban economy – global and national aspects*" was attended by Petar Stoyanov (University of National and World Economy), Konstantin Golev (Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" – Uludağ University, Bursa, Turkey), Tea Peneva (University of National and World Economy), Momchil Marinov (Museum of History "Iskra", Kazanlak), Marko Dimitrov (University of National and World Economy), Liliana Veleva. They discussed problems of the economic development of the Balkans and Europe from



the Medieval Ages until Modernity, such as the economic relations between the Central Asian and East European steppes, dominated by the Kuman-Qïpchaq and the urban centers located in their periphery; Paris as center of the World Expositions during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century; the development of oil-bearing crops in the Bulgarian economy in the 30s of the 20<sup>th</sup> century; the application of the revenue stamp in the modern Bulgarian state; the Bulgarian industry and its development during the 30s and the 40s of the 20<sup>th</sup> century; the industrialisation and the urbanisation of Bulgaria between 1944 and 1989.

After the conclusion of the panels, the conference participants took part in a discussion on the methodology for creating a bibliography of the Bulgarian economic and historical literature. This topic was also related to one of the main activities in which the members of CEHR are currently involved.

The papers which were delivered during the second day of the conference were focused on the problems of the towns and the cities as space for economic activities. They were presented in two parallel panels. Gergana Georgieva (St. Cyril and St. Methodius University of Veliko Tarnovo), Kristian Valchev (“Angel Kanchev” University of Ruse), Boriana Antonova (University of Economics – Varna),

Petar Dobrev (Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”) took part in one of them. They discussed topics on the economy of Tryavna, Lyaskovets, Arbanassi and Ruse during the 19<sup>th</sup> century; the “Bulgarian railway concession” between Ruse and Varna in the third quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century; the transformation of the economic activity of the Holevich family in Kotel from proto-industrialisation towards capitalist agriculture.

The other panel was attended by Margarita Marinova (International Business School – Botevgrad), Emilia Vacheva (D. A. Tsenov Academy of Economics, Svishtov), Dimitar Hristov (Institute for Historical Studies – Bulgarian Academy of Sciences), Evgeni Kostov (University of National and World Economy), Ivaylo Nachev (Institute for Balkan Studies and Centre for Thracology – Bulgarian Academy of Sciences). They delivered papers on the changes of the demography and the socio-economic development of the Bulgarian towns and cities located on the River Danube between 1878 and 1912; the development of crafts in the town of Svishtov from 1878 until the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century; the urban economy of the city of Ohrid during the 19<sup>th</sup> and the 20<sup>th</sup> century; the Second State Court (1910–1914) for Ministerial “criminal offenses” in construction activities committed in Sofia Municipality; the

factories in Sofia until World War II as part of the urban space.

After the end of the parallel panels in the second day of the conference, the event was officially closed. It gathered scholars from all over Bulgaria, who had the opportunity to exchange ideas, experiences, and to discuss their

research in a fruitful scholarly debate. At the end of 2016, the papers of the conference were published in the first volume of the Proceedings of CEHR – “*The Urban Economy in the Bulgarian Lands throughout the Ages*”.

*Boriana ANTONOVA*

# ÉTUDES BALKANIQUES

Fondée en 1964

La revue trimestrielle est publiée par l'Institut d'Études balkaniques & Centre de Thracologie (Académie bulgare des Sciences).

Elle propose des articles conceptuels et des travaux d'exploration dans le domaine des études balkaniques, en français, en anglais, en allemand, en russe et en italien.

La revue fournit de l'information sur différents événements scientifiques d'actualité : recensions d'ouvrages récents, annonces et comptes-rendus de congrès internationaux, colloques ou autres manifestations consacrées aux études balkaniques.

Sa structure comprend également des études interdisciplinaires qui contribuent à l'éclaircissement des phénomènes spécifiques du développement socio-économique, politique et culturel des pays balkaniques, dans leurs aspects les plus divers, ainsi que dans leurs rapports avec les aires plus larges : européenne et méditerranéenne, depuis les époques les plus reculées jusqu'à nos jours.

La revue *Études Balkaniques* est un lieu de rencontre des chercheurs et universitaires qui s'intéressent aux problèmes interbalkaniques.

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