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L’Idée d’Etat dans les Balkans au XIXe siècle. Le cas bulgare

(Abstract)

The numerous and active intellectual and political Bulgarian emigrants in Romania in the 19th century have left behind an impressive number of political, literary, scientific, and didactic writings. All of them, from poetry to the political manifestos that consumed the peoples of Southeast Europe in the 19th century, and particularly the Bulgarians in this case, debate a number of views on the appropriate organization of the state. These include notions such as nation state, kingdom, dual state, monarchy, republic, and concepts such as the state itself, the nation, autonomy, independence, an autocephalous Church. In particular, the Bulgarian Patriarchy, symbol of medieval tsardom and independence, is used as a key argument in the political literature of the 19th century for the right to a national state. Thus, the idea of the Balkan medieval state – the tsardoms, the Byzantine Empire, the Romanian principalities – is revived in written memory as early as the second half of the 18th century. However, the concept of the medieval ethnic and Christian state that re-emerges from within the Islamic Ottoman Empire is based on a model that existed 500 years ago on the Balkan Peninsula.