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The Dynamics of Austrian-Russian Relations in the Assessment of Bulgarian Social Democrats (Late 19th – Early 20th Centuries)

[Динамика Австро-Российских отношений в оценках болгарских социал-демократов
(конец XIX – начало XX ст.)]

(Abstract)

The article is devoted to the study of competition, characteristic of the relationship between the Russian Empire and the leading countries of Western and Central Europe in the Balkans in the last quarter of the XIX – first decade of the XX century. The largest parties of the Bulgarian Social Democratic movement (orthodox, reformist and center-left) each interpreted these relations in their own way. At the same time, they most carefully monitored the relationship between Russia and Austria-Hungary, which allowed (after the Murzsteg agreements) to talk about the existence of a certain Austrian-Russian dualism in this region. The leadership of the Bulgarian Social Democratic Workers' Party (narrow socialists) perceived the policies of both empires extremely negatively. The ideologists of the Bulgarian Social Democratic Workers' Party (broad socialists) were more moderately disposed and brought the conflict to the level of European diplomacy. While the centrist Social Democratic Union "Proletarian", strongly criticizing the Balkan policy of Russia and Austria-Hungary, supported the concept of the Balkan Democratic Confederation.

Keywords: Austria-Hungary; Russia; Austria-Russia relationship; Bulgarian social democrats; narrow socialists; broad socialists; late 19th – early 20th c.