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Bulgarian Trace in the Middle East: Syria

(Abstract)

The publication brings to the fore the Bulgarian foreign policy regarding Syria, which emerged as the leading Middle Eastern partner of the Soviet bloc in the 1970s. It analyzes documentary evidence of Bulgaria's presence in Syria, aiming to highlight durable achievements while identifying systemic shortcomings and challenges. The study delves into Bulgarian goals and activities in construction, agriculture, industrial development, and weapons export, analyzing decisive factors influencing the decision-making process in Sofia. Research on Bulgarian labor migration to Syria includes considerations of professional profiles, financial and residence conditions within the context of state's comprehensive control over Bulgarian labor resources. The author comments on the specifics of the actions for dissemination of Bulgarian studies abroad.

Keywords: Middle East, construction, labor migration, ideological control, Bulgarian studies, Bulgarian films, propaganda, children's initiatives, mixed marriages, education and military contacts.

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