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The Division of the European Economy and Bulgaria

(Summary)

The split of the European economy was one of the most serious consequences of the Cold War. For nearly half a century it condemned Eastern Europe to isolation, to economic and technological backwardness. Even after the fall of the ideological and political barriers the reintegration of the East-European countries in the international division of labour proved one of the most complicated problems of our times, difficult to overcome. The process started in parallel with the political division of Europe, The qualitative changes in the organization of Europe's economy occurred, however, after the passing of the Marshall Plan in 1947. Generally speaking these changes ended in the late 50s with the formation of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance and the European Economic Community. The purpose of this study is to sum up the problems connected with the division of the European economy, a subject which so far has not been subjected to a special examination in Bulgarian historiography. The article provides a bold outline of the philosophy of the American and the Soviet post-war diplomacy, the differences in the views on the recovery of the European economy and the progress of the ensuing events which led to its division. An attempt is made to clarify the particular features of "the processes of integration that began in the two parts of the Continent and the character of the qualitative changes that occurred in the traditional international division of labour. A special accent in the paper is put on Bulgaria's place and role in these processes directed by the superpowers. Earlier publications of the authoress serve as a foundation of the study. Their contents are enriched and expanded by hitherto

unused archival material am by factual data obtained from the newly published researches and documentary collections.