

**G. Markov**

## **Bulgaria, “Balkanization” and Europe**

(Summary)

The peoples of SE Europe have gone through hard tests and great sufferings of the extremely painful condition, called “Balkanization” in the world encyclopaedias. The causes for the sorrowful glory are as much of a regional character as they rest in the egoistic geopolitical schemes of the Great Powers. As a matter of fact no more wrongs were done in the southeastern part of the Old Continent than in the other “civilized” countries. Globalization in the economy does not mean that the Europeans will be standardized to the extent of not knowing what sort of people they are. Difference leads to unity in variety and is no obstacle to joining the achievements of the others. The inhabitants of the Balkans are not “second class” Europeans. The Balkans can be not only the end but also the beginning of Europe depending on the point of view. Today the Balkan peoples return not to Europe but to the forgotten economic and political values. They may cure themselves of the “Balkanization” and prove that the Balkans are an inseparable part of Europe.