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**The Fate of Exarch Stefan in the context of Soviet-Bulgarian  
Relations (The 40s and 50s of the 20th Century)**

(Summary)

The religious and socio-political activity of Exarch Stefan occupies a considerable place in the history of Bulgaria and the Bulgarian Orthodox Church, but for a long period of time it remained outside the attention of the researchers, It was only in the 1990s that both the Bulgarian and the Russian secular historiography “opened” to the theme thanks to the wider access to the archival materials and to a more liberal thinking. In this study the authoress makes an attempt to fill essential lacunae in the studies on the life and activity of Exarch Stefan on the basis of Russian archival materials. Based on them she offers her own interpretation of aspects of the socio-political activity of the Exarch in the context of Soviet-Bulgarian relations during the period under review.