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## **New Bulgarian Education and the First Teachers' Conventions**

(Summary)

The teachers' conventions which were held in the late 60s and early 70s of the 19th century were important events in the history of Bulgarian education during the National Revival. Caused by certain negative tendencies in the development of school life, they set themselves the goal of overcoming the organizational lack of co-ordination and the thorough decentralization of education and of assisting the introduction of identical study programmes obligatory for everybody. Due to the absence of unifying cultural national institutions, the organization of the first teachers' conventions was effected by the local municipalities and reading-rooms, with the hope to grow gradually into regional and all-national undertakings. They failed to reach this stage but the conventions in Stara Zagora, Plovdiv, Razgrad, Oryahovo and elsewhere marked the beginning of a decisive turn in the development of Bulgarian schools, particularly of the village schools which to that point were in a most backward and primitive condition. The first teachers' conventions laid the foundations of the teachers' professional organizations and prepared the conditions for calling during the following years of many bigger and more authoritative conventions held by the Bulgarian Orthodox Church.