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## **The Department of Pedagogy of Salonika High School, 1887–1896**

(Summary)

With the signing of the Berlin Treaty of 1878 Bulgaria was cruelly dismembered and a considerable part of Bulgarian lands in Macedonia, Aegean and Eastern Thrace was brought back under the jurisdiction of the Ottoman Empire. After the return of Exarch Yosif I to Constantinople in the early 1880 and the endorsement in August 1890 of the Vilayets Act by the European Commission, conditions for the development of school work of the Exarchate improved. Then, the start of a wide and planned campaign for the promotion of education marked also the opening of the Salonika High School. Until 1913, in the course of 33 years, it functioned as the most prestigious educational establishment, training highly educated young people for the needs of schooling in Macedonia and Eastern Thrace. In all these years, Salonika High School, being a Bulgarian Exarchal institution, had functioned as a centre of education and culture as well as a place, where the ideas of national liberation sprang and spread. The fundamental task facing Bulgarian Exarchate was the development of education but to carry it out well-educated teachers were needed locally. A significant role in executing the task of training teachers was also played by the Salonika High School Department of Pedagogy. The research task this article has set aims at elucidating the character, the place, the role and importance of the Department of Pedagogy in training teachers, in advancing the Salonika High School and in promoting education in Macedonia and Eastern Thrace.