

**Nikola Avreyski**

## **The Sources of the European Concept. The Initiation of the European Idea and its Development until the Great French Revolution**

(Summary)

European themes accompanied the formulation and the development of the European idea and were firmly established as early as the age of Renaissance by which time the community on the Continent had become well aware of the cultural unity of the Old World. Since that time the European issue has been interpreted in thousands of works in philosophy, history, law, political journalism, and political, sociological, cultural, art studies, etc. as well as in literature and art. After the Second World War, the European idea became the focus of intellectual effort which aimed to reveal European identity in the past and in the present, the dynamics of the ideas for the construction of a new Europe, as well as the challenges of carrying out the unique project of European integration, and the competing visions of the common future of European peoples. The present study is an attempt to summarise the interpretation of the origin, development and the current state, as well as the problems and future prospective of the European idea, without avoiding the controversies in its development, and by giving Eastern and South- Eastern Europe, which have been underestimated in Western literature, their due place in the pan-European Process. The objectives are to trace the emergence of the European idea and its crystallization until the Great French Revolution, as well as the establishment of a cultural unity of the European peoples, the pioneer projects for common political organisation on the Continent,

the complex and continual process of identifying the sociopolitical boundaries of Europe over the centuries.