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## **The Bulgarian External Debt in the Years of the Petroleum Crisis (1973-1980)**

(Summary)

The shocking raising of the prices of the petroleum since October 1973 leads to perturbations in world-wide economics. Especially affected are the European countries that import petroleum and oil products. The crisis also affects the East-European countries, that can not react fast and adequate to the world conjuncture, due to their planned economy. Some socialist countries, as well as Bulgaria, amass great liabilities through export trade and this forms a reasonably big external debt. In the end of 1978 the liabilities Bulgaria has towards West-European banks become so big that attendance becomes no longer possible. In this situation, the Bulgarian leader Todor Jivkov, makes use of the close relations between him and the secretary-general of CPSU (Communist Party of the Soviet Union) Leonid Brejnev in order to be given essential Soviet support in solving the Bulgarian financial problems. By the end of that decade the debt crisis is overcome thanks to the annual Soviet grants and an increase in the petroleum re-export through Bulgaria, which improves the foreign-trade balance of the country. For once and again the Bulgarian party and government powers do not search for economical solutions to the problems and do not take the urgent reforms, but again they rely on the Soviet help, that makes the country even more dependant on the development of the political situation in Moscow.