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**THE TOPIC OF VOLGA BULGARIA IN BULGARIAN HISTORICAL
LITERATURE SINCE THE LIBERATION OF BULGARIA (1878)
UNTIL THE 1990'S - A PROBLEM WITH CONTINUATION**

(Summary)

The presented research seeks to illuminate the processes, tendencies and contributions of our local historian circles on the topic of Volga Bulgaria. Entire essays of different nature have been examined and analyzed, which concern partially or completely the other Mediaeval Bulgaria, its population, customs, way of life, economy, culture. The researched period covers examples of the modern Bulgarian historical literature after the Liberation of Bulgaria (1878), while the 1990's have been conditionally chosen as the upper border, when there were such processes to be observed in Bulgarian historical science whose analysis goes far beyond the limited narrative capacity of this research. Ultimately, the following three conclusions were drawn: Firstly, the topic of the other Mediaeval Bulgaria can be defined as marginal for the local researchers' interest. Whether and to what extent the reasons for such a tendency are objective or they rest on another, non-scientific basis, cannot be positively confirmed. Secondly, the image of Volga Bulgaria in historiography works in our country enjoys the status of an exotic historical reality rather than as object of research. The informative tone and the frequent lack of bibliographic references confirm such a conclusion. The lack of translated sources and the secondary literature data available demonstrate evident willingness the problem to be delegated entirely to the Russian science. Thirdly, the small number of thorough researches on the problem is of contributive nature mainly, and is

insufficient to form a clear, scientifically proven notion of Volga Bulgaria and its historical path in the local scientific field and among the public. This leads to the lack of criteria for judging the authenticity in this area, which has been skillfully used by unconscientious authors who discredit it and turn it into a profitable publishing business. The topic of Volga Bulgaria and Volga Bulgars is still searching for its dedicated researchers in Bulgaria.