

**Vera Boneva**

**THE BULGARIAN CHURCH PROBLEM AND THE  
CONSTITUTIONAL COUNCIL OF THE PATRIARCHATE OF  
CONSTANTINOPLE (OCT. 1858 - FEB. 1860)**

(Summary)

In the beginning of her research, before proceeding with the detailed factual revealing of the events concerning the main problem, the author retrospectively reviews moments from the Bulgarian ecclesiastical movement in the preceded period, in order to found upon the thesis that in the spring and summer of 1856 this movement enters on a new phase. The main exposition shows not only the discussions, but also the society's modes of the general items on which a decision should be given in order to finally work out a new organizations rules of the Patriarchate. Such problems to be discussed are: to set new regulations for the elections for Patriarch; determining the way of forming a compound council of the Patriarchate, that should consist of both the clerics and the lay brothers; to define the salaries of the Patriarch and the bishops; to discuss and set the taxes that must be paid the Christian citizens of the country; to make a decision concerning the debt owed by the Church to the government; to point out what particular assistance the Church may receive by the government for the collection of the regular taxes and how to raise the funds to pay the debt. It is emphasized on the main target of the Bulgarian ecclesiastical movement - full church independence.