

Petar Garena

THE PARTICIPATION OF CLERGY IN THE BALKAN WAR

(Summary)

The article explores the role of clergy in the military campaigns during the Balkan War, how this role was codified by the Bulgarian legislation as well as the position of Bulgarian Church after 1878. In his article the author focuses on several issues. The author's main point is that a clear distinction should be made between the role of clergy as spiritual „fathers“ and champions of soldiers, on the one hand, and its role as administrative officials, on the other hand. Moreover, the author stresses that fact that the activities of Bulgarian clergy were legally confined within the framework of religious issues. Secondly, the author explores clergy activities within different social circles. These included legal regulation of the obligations of garrison clergy and the expected results. Thirdly, he examines the active participation of Bulgarian clergy, hospital staff and sanitary in the military campaigns. Last, but not least, the author outlines the impact of the Balkan War on the fate of Bulgarian Church.