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**THE LAST YEAR: BULGARIA AND THE STATES OF THE EASTERN  
BLOCK IN THE YEAR 1989**

(Summary)

The distance of time and the access to documents gives a good reason to the historians to turn back to the events of 1989, and to look for an explanation why did a whole system, commanding an enormous army and governing communist parties of many millions, collapse so quickly and easily. There is an additional factor that gives liberty for historical analysis of the events, without any political interference - most of the leading participators in them are already out of the real politics and some are deceased. These circumstances motivated the author to trace and study the relations between Bulgaria and the rest of the East European states in the crucial 1989. Bulgarian documents indicate that the greater part of the governing circles in Eastern Europe was in the clear as to the crises and its consequences. They tried to slow the process in different ways or to include themselves in it, hoping to join the inevitable transformations. None of the ruling equips managed to do so, and that was not an accident - the new correlation of the forces on a global, European and national level, required new leaders to build the new system. The exhaust of the inner resources on which the rule of the communist party was based everywhere in Europe, is the best explanation for the bloodless beginning of the transition in the region, not by chance defined as “the tender revolution”.