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**Deyan Martinovski****BULGARIAN COMMUNIST PARTY AND THE MACEDONIAN ISSUE  
1957-1963**

(Summary)

The aim of this study is to follow the beginning and development of the evolutionary process on the part of Bulgarian party's executive body in the second part of the 50-ies of XX century, that lead to the rejection of the detrimental communist formulation on the Macedonian issue. This happened in the course of the March plenum in 1963, when a new political standpoint in the relations with Yugoslavia, conformed to the Bulgarian national interests, was adopted. Initiator of this new policy of the Bulgarian communist party on the Macedonian issue was the Party's first secretary T. Zhivkov. He realized the need to finally sever with the Comintern inheritance (the postulates of which continued to poison the Party's policy on the Macedonian issue even after 1948). These threatened the sovereignty of Bulgaria, because Yugoslavia had the legal grounds to interfere in the internal life of the Bulgarian state. The new Party's policy on the Macedonian issue was based on defending the historical truth about Macedonia, and in that way to neutralize the Yugoslavian claims toward the region of Pirin, claims Yugoslavia sustained even after 1948. The development of this new political course on the Macedonian issue, in line with the Bulgarian national interest on T. Zhivkov's part must not be belittled or underestimated, because he accomplished the revaluation of the party's policy on the Macedonian issue in the circumstances of bitter interparty struggle with his opponents for the power, and that made him exceptionally dependent on the goodwill of Moscow. After the March plenum of 1963 and the new political

stand on the Macedonian issue, the population of Pirin Macedonia for the first time got the chance to freely declare their Bulgarian national belonging, and they did exactly that during the census of 1965.