
Hristo Milkov**THE EUROPEAN PROPAGANDA AND BULGARIA DURING THE
FIRST STAGE OF WORLD WAR II**

(Summary)

In the period 1 of September 1939 – 22 June 1941, the most influential European propagandas in the Bulgarian society were the German, the British and the Soviet ones. Because of a number of historical circumstances, such as military defeats, the role of “poor relative” to Duce in the Axis, the Italian one wasn’t able to achieve any substantial results. This period is characteristic for its relative freedom of action for the above mentioned propagandas, but the Bulgarian authorities “hardened” their attitude toward the British and the Soviet propagandas in the last months of 1940 and the first half of 1941. Each of them had their own public in our society, which covered people from different social circles, with various professions, educations and income. Under the influence of the international situation, the increased tension and realization of the national ideal, the interest of the Bulgarians toward the foreign propagandas became more intensive. “Favored” targets were the Court, the elite, Ministries, Administration, officers, the intellectuals. Special attention was devoted to the lecturers in the Universities, and the teachers. The community centers and the schools were also preferred, because through them the common citizens are influenced. The German, British and Soviet propaganda had rich and varied forms and means, most of which were similar or identical. Each of the Powers created its own radio station in Bulgarian language, centers at the Legacies, a network of societies, bookshops. They organized the distribution of publications in the original and in Bulgarian languages – books, newspapers, official and

special bulletins, and films. Besides, they used the possibility for publications in the Bulgarian press of articles and announcements from their telegraphic agencies. The Bulgarian libraries were presented with collections of novels and propaganda materials in foreign languages. The signing of the Triple Pact and the beginning of military operations on the Eastern front radically changed the attitude toward Bulgaria on British and Soviet part, as they were against the fascism.