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**ESTABLISHMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF BULGARIAN
MILITARY CRIMINAL LAW UNTIL 1944**

(Summary)

The history of the Bulgarian criminal law, military criminal law including, i.e. criminal law, regulating criminal responsibility for war crimes committed by the military, has had long and inconstant development during the different historical periods from the establishment of the Bulgarian state. An important peculiarity is that criminal law, military criminal law including, always reflected the most essential events in the history of a given state. In this respect Bulgarian criminal law and military criminal law is no exception. For the time of its existence in modern Bulgaria from 1879 Bulgarian military criminal law was repeatedly subject to changes depending on the socio-political situation. Therefore, summarizing the historical experience of the development and reform of the Bulgarian military criminal law is an important part of the analysis of its place and role in the criminal justice system. The article suggests a periodization of Bulgarian military criminal law dividing its development into four main periods: I. Military criminal law in mediaeval Bulgarian state in the periods from 681 to 1018, and from 1185 to 1396; II. Military criminal law in Bulgaria in the period from the Liberation to 1944; III. Military criminal law in the period from 1944 to 1989; IV. Modern period – from 1989 to nowadays. Accordingly the article differentiates sub-periods (stages) in which military criminal law, regulating criminal responsibility of the military, was in force. In this sequence the establishment and development of Bulgarian military criminal law is analyzed to 1944.