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**Hristo Milkov****FIRST STEPS TO DEMOCRACY: FROM DECOR TO DECOR**

(Summary)

After so many years of stagnation, when November 10, 1989 came at last, surprised we asked ourselves: democracy in our country too? What happened to Bulgarians? From its very first days countless rallies, marches, happenings, festivals, live chains came one after another. More or less organized, they became an integral part of our contemporary history. Outside the «core» on duty with its trained voices, coordinated responses and too poor and easily recognizable repertoire, from the first rallies Bulgarians started to come neither on special invitation nor for marking presence. They believed that they had not been sought after like figures that would cover the square and on this basis would make the sum for sociological surveys and media coverage - three people per square meter; they believed that someone wanted to tell them something new and to hear their opinion. They went to see the new faces (or the “new” old ones) and to give them their trust or distrust. “Small” person ceased to feel “small” and felt as the creator of their history. Precisely the rallies and processions became part of this story, or at least its visible part... The way of communication between people and between them and the leaders became the slogan. Slogans, banners, chants and cheers created a kind of coordinate system. It gradually cleared; new formulations tailored to the requirements of the day were added, others dropped out. One or other call was formulated because of the need to join a community that complies with your "self". That is why slogans are a kind of identification. When one finds “their” community, one gets a sense of protection, so the slogans were like “tranquilizers”.