

**Nadya Manolova-Nikolova**

**MODERNIZATION AND CHURCH: BULGARIAN EXAMPLE OF THE  
FIRST HALF OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY**

(Summary)

Two fundamental terms are used in this article: Church and modernization in their basic sense – modernization as renewal and church as the temple and the community around it. The leading idea is that Bulgarian modernization from the first half of the nineteenth century, especially from the 1830's and 1840's, developed through several interconnected components: massive church building, which consolidated local Bulgarian societies; renewal in religious literature, read by Bulgarians; innovation in church art, which changed the appearance of the temples. Bulgarian historiography in the first half of the nineteenth century speaks mostly about secular cultural trends, but actually they are only isolated islands in the general religious-spiritual picture. Unfolding of secular cultural trends was yet to come in the second half of the century, thanks to the religious renewal, which broke the old traditions and brought new impulses for internal Community solidarity and new spiritual attitudes in 1830–1840's.