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MINORITY LEGISLATION IN BULGARIA FROM BERLIN TO NEUILLY

(Summary)

In historical retrospect Bulgaria occupies an important place in minority policy both in the Balkans and in Europe. Coincidentally, because of historical processes in the late 19th century the Bulgarian state was the first in the Balkans, which was obliged by the 1878 Berlin Treaty to ensure specific ethnic rights. The text of the article is an attempt to present a more general overview of the minority policy of Bulgaria for the period from 1879 to 1919. The author examines the traditional ethnic and religious minorities, subject of official state policy during the period: Turks, Greeks, Vlachs / Romanians and the other two major communities in the country – Jews and Armenians. The main reasons for this approach are tied to three key aspects of minority policy: international obligations of the Principality, and later the Kingdom of Bulgaria, the stereotype of the ongoing internal and external minority policy and minorities as part of the international treaties and agreements.