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**BULGARIAN NATIONAL CHURCH MOVEMENT IN THE EPARCHY  
OF VIDIN (1856–1870)**

(Summary)

The article follows the development of the church-national movement of the Bulgarians in the Vidin Diocese in the period of its highest activity on the eve of the establishment of the Bulgarian Exarchate. The author presents the main accents of the involvement of local communities in the national initiatives – the participation in the Easter action in the spring of 1860, the resistance to the partial settlement of the dispute with the Patriarchate of 1867 and 1868, the commitment to the initiatives on the proclaiming of the Firman for the establishment of the Exarchate of February 27, 1870. On the basis of various sources, the opposition actions against the two Patriarchal Metropolitans, Paisiy and Antim, were traced. A conclusion is made about the important role of the border diocese for the whole course of the struggle for ecclesiastical and national sovereignty during the Revival period.