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**THE BULGARIAN NATIONAL QUESTION: APPEARANCE,  
CHARACTER, CONDITION, PERSPECTIVES**

(Summary)

The “National Question” is a topic that remains insufficiently researched and even inconvenient from the perspective of both areas for which it is of vital significance: academic research and politics. The reasons are entirely political in nature, but by ignoring the issue or keeping silence about it scholars and politicians cannot solve the problem, they just turn it into a means of radicalizing political attitudes and complicating the interstate relations. This state of affairs, burdened by an alarming uncertainty, stood out particularly clearly after the collapse of the communist system and the disintegration of some of its affiliated states that had imperial or federal structures. The proposed text is an attempt at a comprehensive analysis of the Bulgarian National Question and its development throughout the Modern Age up to the present day. The formation of the Bulgarian nation and the efforts of the restored Bulgarian state to unite the Bulgarians and the territories where they constituted a majority using political or military means, are highlighted as this paper’s central foci. Bulgaria’s political mistakes and military failures are discussed along with the more significant regional, continental, and global events, as well as the subsequent international decisions, which exerted direct impact on the contemporary state of the Bulgarian National Question. The text pays special attention to the prospects for the mitigation of the National Question and its reevaluation in the context of Bulgaria’s radically altered present-day position as an EU and NATO member state.