

Konstantin Golev

**“THEY WERE UNABLE TO KEEP THE FIELD DURING THE
SUMMER”: CUMAN ASYMMETRIC SEASONAL MILITARY
ACTIVITY IN THE BALKANS**

(Summary)

According to Dmirty Rassovsky the Cumans never appeared south of the Danube to support the Asenids during the hot time of the year and if it occurs in the course of a campaign they withdrew. Plamen Pavlov relativizes to a certain extent the too deterministic model introduced by Rassovsky, which is still relevant for the relations between the Cumans and the first rulers of the re-established Bulgarian state. Yet, the question whether this model is valid only for the period of few decades in the end of the 12th c. – beginning of the 13th c., or had broader implications remains unsolved. On the basis of various cases of the Medieval Balkan history examined in the present research, it can be concluded that the asymmetric seasonal military activity of the Cuman-Qipchaqs stretches far beyond the chronological frame of the period of most intensive military cooperation between the nomads and the first Asenids. In fact, this phenomenon can be observed through the entire period of Cuman activities in the Balkans (11th–13th cc.)