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**DEMOGRAPHIC POLICY IN THE BULGARIAN LEGISLATION FOR THE
PERIOD 1879-1912**

PHD THESIS

For taking a scientific degree "PhD in History"
Professional scientific division 2.2. "History and Archeology"

(summary)

This PhD thesis aims to present the existing *legislation and policies* in Bulgaria with regards to its demographic policy in the period between 1879 and 1912. Crucial in **formulating the subject**, the relationship between demographic policy and legislation - is the fact that the nature and specifics of the demographic policy depend on its legislative regulation. The **main goal** of this dissertation is to clarify the basic concepts related to the nature and implementation of the demographic policy legislation in post-liberation Bulgaria.

By summarizing the available historiographical material, the author aims to formulate some **basic tasks**, which allow him to achieve the objective of this work. Namely, the author aims to track the construction of the policy, promoting population growth in the legislation of Bulgaria in the period 1879 - 1912; to establish the formation of concepts related to the improvement of public health and reduction of the mortality rate of the population in Bulgaria; as well as, to reveal the creation of a policy concept in the legislation during the period 1878 - 1912, which relates to the mechanical movement and spatial redistribution of the population.

Chapter 1 presents the specifics of the post - liberation Bulgarian legislation by clarifying the government's concept of *the impact on the fertility rate*. It recognizes that natural birth is the main demographic process, which leads to an increased overall population growth and is one of the main approaches for conducting demographic policy.

Chapter 2 presents the policies in the legislation of Bulgaria in the period 1879-1912, which are oriented towards the *improvement of public health and the reduction of the mortality rate of the population*. Indeed, the second major approach in the demographic policy of Bulgaria is linked to the mortality rate.

Chapter 3 examines the legislation of Bulgaria covering the third major approach in the demographic policy - *mechanical movement and spatial redistribution of population settlement*. This approach is mainly associated with the migration policy implemented by the government during the surveyed period.

Drawing on the formulated objective, this analysis sets the following **expected results**: (i) the development of the topic aims to add towards the research vacuum, existing in this area of academic knowledge; (ii) as an element of the general demographic history of our population, the clarification of the raised problems will enrich the overall picture of the historical developments in our territories; (iii) the research of the identified issues creates an opportunity to examine certain sides of the nature and specifics of the legislation in Bulgaria in the post-liberation period; the summarizing conclusions would be useful in clarifying the specifics of the processes of the country's demographic development nowadays and could be helpful in making governmental policies regulating the demographic processes in Bulgaria.