

ANNOTATIONS OF THE MATERIALS REFERRED TO IN ARTICLE 65 OF THE PROMOTION OF ACADEMIC STAFF REGULATION OF PLOVDIV UNIVERSITY

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On the monograph ‘State bodies in Bulgarian constitutions – National Assembly, Council of Ministers, Head of State – 1879-1991. Legal-historical analysis’, Plovdiv, Paisii Hilendarski University Publishing House, 2025, ISBN 978-619-281-046-7.

The monograph covers the period from 1879 to 1991, which represents a unique historical segment in the Bulgarian state tradition, characterized by radical political transformations and constitutional changes. This period included four different constitutional regimes, from the liberal Tarnovo Constitution of 1879, through the socialist constitutions of 1947 and 1971, to the democratic constitution of 1991. Each of these constitutional acts reflects the specific historical conditions, political realities and ideological concepts of its time, while bearing elements of continuity with previous traditions.

The analysis of the historical development of state bodies provides valuable lessons for the present and the future, revealing both successful models of institutional functioning and problem areas that required adjustments and reforms. The Bulgarian legal tradition, despite its relative youth compared to other European countries, is extremely rich and diverse. It includes elements from different legal families and constitutional models, while reflecting the specific features of the Bulgarian historical development. The study of this tradition not only enriches our knowledge of Bulgarian legal history, but also provides valuable material for comparative legal analyses.

The monograph aims to present a comprehensive and systematic study of the development of the main state bodies in the Bulgarian constitutions for the period from 1879 to 1991. The study allows the evolution of each of the three main state bodies – the National Assembly, the Council of Ministers and the Head of State – to be tracked. Political and social factors that have influenced their formation in different historical contexts are analyzed. Instead of the traditional chronological approach, the present work traces the development of each state body separately. This approach allows for a clearer follow-up of the specific developments of each institution and facilitates benchmarking between different periods.

The structure of the paper is built on the principle of gradual deepening in the matter, starting with the necessary historical context and moving to the detailed analysis of each of the three main state bodies.

The historical introduction that opens the study (Chapter One) is not just a formal introduction, but an essential part of the analytical apparatus of the monograph. This part provides the necessary context for understanding the conditions and circumstances under which the various constitutional acts were adopted. The process of adoption of the Tarnovo Constitution is outlined, which reveals the complex political and diplomatic factors that influenced the formation of the first Bulgarian Constitution.

The analysis of the Constituent Assembly of 1879 forms part of the study, which reveals the contradictions between the formal requirements of the Berlin Treaty and the real political processes in the newly established Bulgarian principality. It shows how, despite formal compliance with international requirements, the actual constitution process has been influenced by many factors not provided for in international treaties. This analysis reveals the complexity of state-building processes under conditions of international guardianship and limited sovereignty.

The central part of the monograph, dedicated to the analysis of the three main state bodies, represents the most significant part of the study. Structuring this analysis on an institutional basis allows monitoring the specific trends in the development of each institution and facilitates comparative analysis between different constitutional periods.

The analysis of the National Assembly (Chapter Two) begins with a detailed study of S. I. Lukyanov's draft of the Organic Statute, which provides an opportunity to understand the initial concepts of the role and functions of the parliamentary institution in the Bulgarian state. It tracks how initial ideas were modified in the process of discussing and adopting the constitution,

revealing the influence of different political forces on the final form of constitutional provisions. A comparative analysis is made between the powers of the Ordinary and the Grand National Assembly in the different constitutional periods. This analysis reveals how the concept of two-tier parliamentarism evolved during different historical epochs and how it was adapted to the specific needs of different political regimes.

The analysis of the Council of Ministers (Chapter Three) is the part of the study which reveals the evolution of the executive power in the Bulgarian state. It traces how the concept of government has changed from the liberal model of the Tarnovo Constitution, through the socialist concepts of unity of powers, to the modern model of separation of powers.

The study of the institution of the head of state (Chapter Four) represents that part of the monograph which shows this institution having undergone the most radical transformations during the various constitutional periods. From the monarchical model of the Tarnovo Constitution, through the collective bodies of the socialist period (Presidium of the National Assembly and State Council), to the modern presidential institution, each of these forms reflects the specific concepts of state power and its organisation in the respective historical periods.

The last part of the monograph (Chapter Five) is an in-depth historical analysis of the development of the Bulgarian constitutional system from the Tarnovo Constitution of 1879 until the adoption of the Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria of 1991. It follows the evolution of the powers of the National Assembly as the main legislative body during the different historical periods, including the differences between the Ordinary and the Grand National Assembly. The powers of the Council of Ministers are analysed in detail in the three main constitutional epochs - the monarchical (1879), the socialist (1947-1971) and the democratic (1991), following the changes in its role and functions. Particular attention is paid to the transformation of the institution of the head of state - from the monarch power in the Tarnovo Constitution, through the Presidium of the National Assembly and the State Council in the socialist period, to the presidential institution in modern democracy. This includes a comparative analysis of the constitutional provisions and the powers of the state authorities in the different historical periods, which allows tracking the trends in the development of the Bulgarian statehood. A significant part of this chapter is devoted to the legal-historical analysis of the process of adoption of the 1991 Constitution, including the examination of the various drafts and the four readings in the VII Grand National Assembly.

The book, published on the basis of a protected dissertation for the award of the educational and scientific degree of doctor, entitled ‘Nineteenth-Century Razlog Legal Monument’. Plovdiv, IU "Paisii Hilendarski", 2024, p. 317, ISBN 978-619-202-933-3.

The research is dedicated to the Razlog Manuscript from the XIX century (Manuscript No 1119 on the inventory of the National Library St. Kliment Ohridski). St. Cyril and Methodius), this manuscript is a late compilation of the well-known legal scholarly collection Nomocanon (named Nomocanon or the Great Breviary). In legal science, and in particular the History of the Bulgarian State and Law, there is no independent monographic study dedicated to the Nomocanon as a source of the history of law.

The need for research is due to the lack of a comprehensive study of this kind of source, it has not been the subject of a comprehensive scientific study in the field of law. The Razlog manuscript was applied in our lands in the epoch of Ottoman rule. The monument is positioned in this epoch and corresponds to the legislation of the period. And when the Nomocanon has been adapted to the evolution of political and social life, it has much more chances to live long.

The need for a scientific study of the legal status of the norms contained in the Nomocanon is determined especially by the current issues that have arisen in recent years - period when the Bulgarian Orthodox Church has exhibited ecclesiastical and legislative initiatives.

The article ‘The National Assembly in the Bulgarian Constitutions’ - C: Collection ‘30 Years of the University of National and World Economy – A Successor of a Centuries-Old Tradition in the Development of Legal Science and Practice’, S., Publishing Complex – UNWE, 2022, ISBN 978-619-232-651, pp. 108-125.

It traces the historical and legal evolution of the National Assembly as the highest representative and legislative body in four Bulgarian constitutions – the Tarnovo Constitution (1879), the Constitution of the People’s Republic of Bulgaria of 1947, the Constitution of 1971 and the current Constitution of 1991. The study is based on a systematic analysis of the

constitutional provisions governing the structure, powers, form of functioning and role of the parliament in the state administration during the various historical stages.

The Tarnovo Constitution establishes the principle of separation of powers within a hereditary constitutional monarchy. Legislative power is exercised jointly by the monarch and the National Assembly, which operates in two forms, the Ordinary and the Grand National Assembly. The latter has exclusive powers in the amendment of the basic law and in the election of the monarch. Despite some guarantees for parliamentary activity, the National Assembly has no convening autonomy and does not exercise effective parliamentary control.

The 1947 Constitution transformed Bulgaria into a People's Republic and placed the National Assembly at the centre of the new institutional set-up. It is formally the supreme body of state power, exercising the legislative function and electing the other higher bodies. However, by creating the Presidium of the National Assembly and its powers in the intersessional period, the real political role of the Parliament is limited.

The 1971 Constitution deepened the ideological function of the National Assembly under a one-party regime. The principle of the unity of state power was affirmed, and the National Assembly 'associated' legislative and executive activity, exercising supreme control. The established State Council replaces the Presidium, but in practice concentrates an even greater amount of powers, including between sessions of the Parliament.

The 1991 Constitution restores parliamentary democracy and imposes a model of separation of powers in which the National Assembly acts as the sole legislative body and bearer of parliamentary control. *Emphasis is placed on democratic legitimacy through direct election, the institution of the Grand National Assembly is restored, and the parliament functions as a permanent body. Guarantees for the independence, transparency and efficiency of parliamentary activity are laid down.*

The article affirms the role of the National Assembly as the main institution of popular sovereignty, which in every constitutional phase reflects the model of statehood and the balance between the authorities, giving the appropriate image to the Bulgarian parliamentarism.

On the article 'On the Obligations and Contracts Act 1892' – C: Collection '70 Years of Obligations and Contracts Act', Plovdiv, Paisii Hilendarski University Publishing House, 2022, ISBN 978-619-226-224-2, pp. 54-66.

he article is dedicated to the analysis of the Obligations and Contracts Act 1892, which is the first systematic normative act in the field of contract law in the Principality of Bulgaria. The historical and legal prerequisites for its adoption are discussed, focusing on the need to build a unified and stable legal framework in the context of the state structure after the Liberation. Special attention is paid to the structure and content of the law, which includes a general part on the occurrence, performance and termination of obligations, as well as a special part regulating individual types of contracts. The impact of the Italian Civil Code 1865 and other Western European legal systems on Bulgarian law is analysed, following the process of legal reception and adaptation. A comparison was made between the Obligations and Contracts Act 1892 and later legislation in the field of contract law, highlighting features of the law – its systemicity, terminological precision and functional suitability. The normative, historical and doctrinal value of the Obligations and Contracts Act 1892 as a fundamental act for the development of the Bulgarian civil legislation is emphasized.

The article ‘Social and political factors in the adoption of the Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria’, Studia Iuris, No 2, 2021, ISSN 2367-5314, pp. 90-98.

The article offers an in-depth analysis of the social and political conditions that accompanied the creation of the Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria from 1991, looking at the process of its elaboration in the context of a large-scale institutional transformation. The subject of the study is the dynamic changes in public life after 1989, which led to the need for the adoption of a new basic law, adequate to the modern principles of democracy, the rule of law and the protection of human rights.

The central place is given to the activities of the Seventh Grand National Assembly, which, in the face of deep public expectations and political polarization, takes on the task of devising a new constitutional framework. The National Round Table, which creates prerequisites for a peaceful institutional transition through political dialogue and seeking agreement, also played a key role in this process. Key moments of the debate on the nature of the future state model are discussed, as well as the role of the various political and civic actors in the constitutional establishment process.

The 1991 Constitution was presented not only as a legal act, but also as a result of efforts to build a new public legitimacy and institutional order. By introducing mechanisms for separation of powers, parliamentary control, independent court and fundamental rights, it established the foundations of modern Bulgarian statehood and became a symbol of a new social contract created in the pursuit of a sustainable democratic order.