

# NEW BULGARIAN UNIVERSITY

## REVIEW

from

Prof. Dimitar Trendafilov Yonchev, NBU, Sofia, Bulgaria Sofia, Mladost 3, ent. 2, mob. TLF 0878 299 428, of the scientific papers submitted in the competition for the academic position of "Professor" in the field of higher education "9. Security and Defense", professional field "9.1. National Security", announced in the State Gazette No. 95/08.11.2024 with candidate Assoc. Yordan Stoyanov Doykov MD

### **I. Assessment of compliance with the minimum national requirements and requirements of NBU**

I accept the works that the author proposes for review. The articles and reports have been published in open public journals (with the exception of one article that is in print), as well as the monograph, thanks to which an opportunity has been created for everyone who is interested in this issue to get acquainted with them.

The total number of points gained from the candidate's publications exceed the state minimum requirements of 760 points. According to some of the indicators, Associate Professor Doykov has exceeded the minimum requirements, as a result of which he has scored 795 points. He pointed out 10 cases of citation.

I find that the submitted papers and the proven citations meet the minimum state requirements for occupying the academic position of "professor", according to Art. 29, para. 2 and para. 3 of the RASRB, as well as the requirements of Art. 64, para. 2 and para. 3 of the Ordinance on the Development of the Academic Staff of NBU.

## **II. Research and results**

### **1. Evaluation of the monographic work, including an assessment of the**

#### **the scientific and scientific-applied contributions of the author**

The monographic work of 380 pages, with an introduction, three chapters and a conclusion, is entitled "War, Military Affairs and the Army" with the subtitle "Sociological and Political Approaches". The subtitle indicates, according to the author, that this is the first volume of a series of three volumes. The ambition of Associate Professor Doykov is to cover the subject field even more fully by applying other approaches to its analysis.

The monograph makes an impression of a thorough and conscientious research. The choice of topic shows the wishes and aspirations of the author, which correspond to his wide awareness of the issues under consideration.

It is clear that the subject area is biographically related to him, to his fate as a professional military man. However, the scientific ambition of Associate Professor Doykov took him beyond the guild closure of the strictly military view of this subject field. He devoted himself to the task of interpreting it through the prism of other views, of other approaches other than the military itself. Here appeared the need to deal with other scientific languages, with other terminologies and with conceptual apparatuses that were not typical for military problems. In this case, we cannot but agree with Richard Rorty's statement that the new is the description of the existing in a new language, different from the previous one. This manner of working in science has been known for a long time. With it, for example, Thomas Aquinas "baptized" Aristotle. But this is a laborious and complex process (it is enough to look at the volume of T. Aquinas' "Sum").

Associate Professor Doykov has accepted the challenge and it is no coincidence that he needs at least two more volumes in order for his work to acquire the desired completed outline.

In this particular endeavor, he did not start as a discoverer. The monographic work shows this quite clearly. To develop his thoughts, the author relies on appropriately selected quotes that he interprets. Thus, through them, the reader sees how different and sufficiently distant from the military problems authors have subjected it to interpretation from the standpoint of their scientific fields. Among them, Associate Professor Doykov has highlighted the special importance of Fotev's ideas, who has taken a relatively limited, but precisely such a step as is the basis of the author's idea. This idea is pointed out by Associate Professor Doykov in the monograph when he summarizes the applied sociological approach to the interpretation of the problem field. "The essence of the presented sociological approach is the development of an explanatory scheme through basic sociological categories. They are the main construct of the theses we have deduced." (p.184)

Similar is the author's research logic in the second essential part of the monograph, dedicated to the application of the political science approach to the research field.

An important feature of the author's style should be noted, such as its didactic orientation. He skillfully handles examples, both historically and contemporarily, and introduces case studies to provoke creative thinking in the reader.

This can be attributed to the practical contributions of the monographic work. His main scientific contribution, however, is in something else. It is in the successful attempt of Associate Professor Doykov to offer a relatively complete systematization of the sociological and political science interpretations of war, the

army and military affairs. The other authors mentioned by him with similar results are united in a consistent way in a complete sociological and political science picture of the subject field, enriched with the original reasoning of the author.

**2. Assessment of contributions in the remaining attached publications, made after the appointment to the academic position of Associate Professor.**

In the publications that followed the election of Dr. Yordan Doykov as Associate Professor, an in-depth analysis of the political decision in the field of security is in-depth, with an emphasis on the actual elections and actions of Bulgaria. The interest in the problems of the war continued, with attention focused on contemporary processes in the region.

As a contribution to these publications, a high degree of specificity in the analysis of the political decision should be accepted. Thus, this thematic circle, which has always been in Dr. Doykov's field of vision, receives new dimensions and hence a higher practical value.

It should be noted that all publications from this period are in edited editions, two of which are subject to mandatory peer review.

In addition to the monograph, the practical contributions of the publications include the textbooks published by Associate Professor Doykov during the period in question.

There is evidence of translation of a scientific paper from French into Bulgarian. It is one of the key works of Carl Schmidt "The Theory of the Partisan". This touch complements the contributions of Associate Professor Doykov as a scientist, as a translator and lecturer.

### **3. Citations from other authors**

In the attached materials are indicated ten citations by other authors. The references are in accordance with the requirements with detailed data about the publication in which they are quoted, as well as the data on Doykov's publication from which the quote is drawn. It is noteworthy that the authors who quoted Associate Professor Doykov were mainly interested in his views on the political decision. Probably, this interest will serve the candidate as a guide in his next research and publications.

### **4. Evaluation of the results of participation in research projects and application of the results obtained in practice**

The applicant has worked on two research projects with direct focus on increasing the efficiency of employees' work, workers and students in the face of the challenges of the modern environment. Access to them, as well as to the presented results, is available at: <http://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12641/13894>  
<http://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12641/13893>.

According to his research program, Associate Professor Doykov is working on two monographs and a doctoral dissertation, and this plan includes the development of the next volume of "War, Military Affairs and the Army".

## **III. Teaching and teaching activities**

**1. Classroom and extracurricular work, work in the electronic training module, providing internships, working with students and PhD students**

In the fall semester of 2023/24, Associate Professor Doykov has 180 hours of classroom work and 315 hours of extracurricular work. In the spring semester of the same year, there are 90 and 120 hours, respectively. Of these hours, 75 are engaged in conducting the internship "Anti-Terrorist Protection of Strategic Sites". This workload exceeds the requirements for 180 classroom and 60 training hours of employment.

The candidate participates in state examination commissions (2 times), supervises bachelor's graduates (2 people), reviews master's theses (7 issues) and bachelor's theses (17 issues).

Associate Professor Doykov attended three different trainings for working in the electronic training module and on the NACID website.

## **2. Student Survey Assessments**

According to an enclosed letter in this regard, that assessment by student polls on the five-point system is very good 4.24.

## **IV. Administrative and social activities**

### **1. Participation in collective governing bodies of NBU**

Associate Professor Doykov regularly participates in the meetings of the Department

Council in his capacity as a lecturer and at the same time in his capacity as Director of the Laboratory for Specialized Studies of Risks and Security at the Department of National and International Security.

### **2. Social activity**

Since 2004, Associate Professor Yordan Doykov has been a member of the Bulgarian Association of Political Science.

#### **V. Personal impressions of the candidate**

Although cursory, obtained during some meetings and participation in scientific conferences, my impressions of Associate Professor Doykov are emphatically positive.

#### **VI. Opinions, recommendations and notes on its activities and the candidate's achievements**

The problems in the publications of Associate Professor Dr. Yordan Doykov are too extensive. This fact inevitably creates some problems, such as the comprehensiveness of the sources, the balancing of the knowledge involved, the use of various scientific corpora and languages. A number of questions could be addressed to the author in terms of content, but this is not a topic within a review, but is in the field of scientific discussion. However, here I will allow myself a note related to language. It refers to some of the publications and especially to the monographic work. The majority of the cited authors use highly professional language with the appropriate conventional vocabulary and when Associate Professor Doykov comments on them, he uses their language to facilitate his task. Thus, on the pages of the monograph, passages with a different linguistic structure alternate, which has facilitated the logic of the exposition, but makes it difficult for the reader to meet him. My recommendation is that in the next steps in this regard, such a text should be re-read and brought by the author to the language that will

facilitate the perception of the logic of the exposition by the widest possible circle of readers. Moreover, Associate Professor Doykov's talent for expressing his thoughts appropriately is obvious.

Let this be taken as a recommendation, and not so much as a criticism.

### **CONCLUSION**

In accordance with all of the above, I give a general positive assessment of the overall academic activity of the candidate Associate Professor, PhD Yordan Stoyanov Doykov and vote positively for his admission to the election by the Academic Council of NBU for the academic position of "Professor" in the field of higher education "9. Security and Defense", professional field "9.1. National Security".

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