

**BULGARIAN SPECIFICS OF THE SOCIAL CRISIS THAT PUT AN
END TO THE COMMUNIST REGIME AND THE CHALLENGES
THAT BULGARIA FACED ON ITS PATH TO DEMOCRACY AND
MARKET ECONOMY**

Iskra BAEVA*

Abstract: Thirty years after the beginning of transition to democracy in Bulgaria, the time has come to assess the successes and failures. The article tries to give this assessment by answering several questions: what were the specifics of the Bulgarian crisis of socialism, why it differed from the processes in Central Europe, how the new political parties are formed and operated, what were difficulties of European integration and how modern Bulgarians appreciate the results of the transition.

Keywords: transition to democracy; Bulgarian specifics; political pluralism; economic transformations; populism

* Faculty of History, “St. Kliment Ohridski” University of Sofia, Bulgaria.
iskravbaeva@yahoo.com