

BOOK REVIEWS



Georgi Fotev, **Bulgarian
Melancholy**. Sofia: Iztok-Zapad
Publishing House, 2010

The book is an attempt to reconsider from an interpretive sociological perspective - one of the most dramatic decades in the Bulgarian history, namely the one between the establishment of the right-wing authoritarian regime (with the takeover of May 19, 1934) and the Communist regime (after the takeover of September 9, 1944). The author, a prominent Bulgarian sociologist, has based his research on both historical facts and material derived from diaries, personal memoirs and newspapers with a view to discovering the cultural and psychological reasons for the *Bulgarian melancholy*, that is the nation's collective sense of doom and despair and the Bulgarian intellectuals' lack of willingness to defend their individualistic and democratic values. This book is a reflection on the hidden instability of the liberal and individualistic project in nations with delayed and difficult modernisation.

Boyko Penchev, Sofia University "St Kliment Ohridski"