

# BOOK REVIEWS



**History of the People's Republic of Bulgaria: Regime and Society.** A collective volume edited by Ivaylo Znepolski. Published by the Institute for Studies of the Recent Past. Sofia: Siela, 2009

The monograph is a first of its kind multidisciplinary study of the Bulgarian society during totalitarian times (1947-1989). The separate chapters deal with the political, economic and social history of Bulgaria and scrutinise the regime policies for control over and management of processes in various social spheres. Some attention is given to the totalitarian state policy regarding culture and the Bulgarian national question. The scholars base their observations on a rich archival material and manage to analyse the mechanisms of institutional production of knowledge about the past (during and after totalitarianism).

In spite of its restrained tone and scholarly scrupulousness, the book is civically engaged. Totalitarianism is not socialism and the regime between 1947 and 1989 is not simply some kind of manifestation of the global left – this is the common conclusion reached by the various studies in the volume.

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