

'Final solution' for Turks in Bulgaria signals redrawing of the Balkan map

by Konstantin George

The Bulgarian Party leadership under Todor Zhivkov—who has ruled Bulgaria for over 30 years, since 1954—in a series of speeches on March 8 has openly declared, under the name of “rebulgarization,” a racist Inquisition against the country’s Turkish minority who comprise up to 10% of Bulgaria’s 9 million population. The launching of the campaign in 1985—which happens to be the 800th anniversary of the founding of the 2nd “Greater” Bulgarian Kingdom in 1185, and for which Bulgaria is planning a big “Jubilee” celebration—presages a Soviet-sponsored redrawing of the Balkan map which would feature a resurrected “Greater Bulgaria” as the key Pan-Slavic Soviet controlled piece on the Balkan chessboard.

“Rebulgarization” is the official name now being given to the Nazi racist policies and anti-Turkish pogrom which has been sweeping Bulgaria for months, where Turkish families have been forced to change both their first and family names by “Bulgarianizing” them. Hundreds of ethnic Turks have been killed by the Bulgarian Police and Army to date as a result of this outburst of enforced “racial purity”. (See *EIR*, Feb. 11, “Moscow’s ‘Greater Bulgaria’ project sets pogroms against Turk minority”).

For months, the pogrom had raged “quietly”—without publicity. That changed, all at once in early March, on the eve of the installation of the former Andropov protégé, Mikhail Gorbachov, as the new Soviet General Secretary.

On March 8, key party leaders—including the Number 2 man after Zhivkov himself—Prime Minister Grisha Filipov (known as “the Russian,” not only for having spent a good portion of his life in the Soviet Union, but for once having advocated Bulgaria’s incorporation into the Soviet Union), who spoke, not far from the Turkish border in the Black Sea port city of Burgas; Interior Minister Dimiter Stoyanov, who spoke in the ancient Bulgarian capital of Turnovo; and Central Committee Secretaries Vasil Tsanev and Dimiter Stanishev, to name but some. All spoke with one voice—literally, from identical prepared speeches—proclaiming one message: the “final solution” through forced “rebulgarization” of the Turkish minority.

Typical of the provocative and expansionist speeches was that of Central Committee Secretary Dimiter Stanishev, who spoke in Blagoevgrad, the capital of Bulgarian Macedonia—Stanishev’s home region—which adjoins the Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the Greek province of Macedonia.

Yugoslav and Greek Macedonia are among territories bordering on Bulgaria coveted by the Bulgarian and Soviet leaderships under their thinly veiled policy of promoting a so-called “Greater Bulgaria.” The dismemberment of Yugoslavia and its apportionment among Bulgaria, Albania, Austria, Hungary and Italian financial interests centered in Venice is key to the whole scheme. For this reason, the Stanishev speech was read immediately with alarm by the Yugoslav national news agency, Tanjug, which saw it not only as an outrage against the Turkish minority and Turkey but a not-so-hidden stab at Yugoslavia.

The Nazi character of the Stanishev speech—and every other speech of the day—is self-evident from the following quotes, printed on March 9 in *Pirisko Delo*, the regional party newspaper of Bulgarian Macedonia. Stanishev declared that the State campaign to change “Turkish-Arabic names” is “spontaneous and all-encompassing,” and is moving “like an avalanche throughout the nation.” The Turkish minority, says Stanishev, has “wisely and farsightedly made their historic choice . . . in accordance with the interests of the Bulgarian nation” and they have been “born again as new human beings.”

“Greater Bulgaria” territorial expansionist drives, historically, have always been the policy behind pogroms, massacres, and expulsions of the Turkish minority. The period of the Russo-Turkish War from 1876-78, forms a classic example. In those years, 1 million ethnic Turks were driven out of Bulgaria, of whom 350,000 were killed. The war ended with the Treaty of San Stefano, dictated by Tsarist Russia in 1878, that established a “Greater Bulgaria” which—albeit for less than a year—as a Russian Pan-Slavic surrogate, briefly ruled most of the Balkan Peninsula. In the postwar Stalin era, marked in the Balkans by Soviet demands for Istanbul (Constantinople) and the Turkish Straits, and Bulgarian de-

mands for Yugoslav and Greek Macedonia, hundreds of thousands of Bulgarian Turks were expelled, or emigrated to Turkey.

As these historical examples demonstrate, and, as has been the case in the past 15-20 years with Bulgaria's documented key role in international arms smuggling, narcotics traffic, and the 1981 attempt to murder the Pope, behind every Bulgarian operation of these sorts, is the guiding "hidden hand" of Imperial Russia.

The Bulgarian 'blood and soil' doctrine

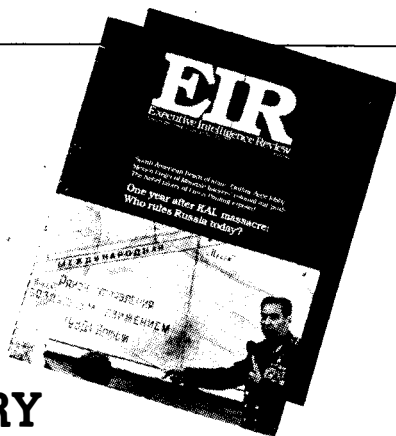
In formulations identical to Stanishev, Prime Minister Filipov, Interior Minister Stoyanov, brutally rejected Turkey's call for talks on the matter, including working out a possible solution allowing for at least partial emigration to Turkey of the persecuted Turkish minority: "There are no negotiations with Turkey, and there won't be any negotiations with Turkey, because there exists no part of the Bulgarian people which belongs to another nation."

This language was, if anything, surpassed in sadism by Interior Minister Dimiter Stoyanov's address in Turnovo—the ancient capital of Bulgaria, considered by Bulgarian mystical doctrine to be "the Bulgarian Rome"—a regional center, northeast of Sofia, near the Danube. The words of Stoyanov, a 1972 Andropov-era graduate of the KGB School in Moscow, and named interior minister in April 1973 (it was at the Soviet Central Committee Plenum of April 27, 1973 that Yuri Andropov as KGB Chief, was, together with Andrei Gromyko, made a Politburo member) speak for themselves:

"All of our compatriots who resumed again their Bulgarian names, are Bulgarians, although some of them have not yet recovered their national consciousness. . . . There are no Turks in Bulgaria. . . . Clearly and categorically, I want to state, and this must be understood by everyone of you, there will be no emigration to Turkey."

These speeches mark only the beginning of what will be a prolific outpouring of Greater Bulgarian and Pan-Slavic chauvinism. On Feb. 18, the Bulgarian Politburo, led by Zhivkov, signed a statement, printed in the Party newspaper, *Rabotnichesko Delo*, proclaiming April 6 the 1,100th anniversary of the death of St. Methodius, a day of national celebration, to reinforce the "Slavic" and "non-Western" character of Bulgaria. Later this year, there will be big Party and Bulgarian Orthodox Church-sponsored celebrations marking the 800th anniversary of the 2nd Bulgarian Empire which began in 1185—some 20 years before the Venice-launched 4th Crusade which sacked Constantinople, the capital of the then crumbling Byzantine Empire.

The 2nd Bulgarian Empire and the 4th Crusade were key components of Venetian policy of that era, and the transfer of power and ruling families from Constantinople to Venice. In short order, as any map of that period will show, the Greek-speaking world of the Eastern Mediterranean was partitioned, in Hitler-Stalin Pact fashion, between the possessions of Venice and the 2nd Bulgarian Empire.



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- SEPT. 25:** *EIR* publishes its evaluation: "The most important economic and military changes in the Soviet Union have been done under the guidance of Ogarkov. It is unlikely that he would have been demoted just at the point that the reorganization process is to be completed."
- OCT. 12:** Ogarkov resurfaces for a meeting with East German party chief Erich Honecker. Western news services learn that he has been named commander of the Western Theater of War.

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