

Various News Items and Reports

News from Abroad: Racism in Bulgaria

Our colleagues in Bulgaria have made the news. The following was published in the January 25 issue of The Economist under the title, "Anthropologists":

Bulgaria has mobilised its scientists in an effort to support its government's claim that the country's 800,000 or so ethnic Turks are in fact full-blooded Bulgarians. An article in a national daily, *Otechestven Front*, has analysed the results of "anthropological tests" supposedly conducted over the past 30 years by anthropologists from the Sofia Institute of Morphology in three districts which contain many members of Bulgaria's Turkish, Macedonian and Greek minorities. The scientists' finding: the Bulgarian nation is pure and uncontaminated, and has remained unchanged since the Middle Ages.

According to the anthropologists, the Bulgarian people took shape in the ninth and tenth centuries as a blending of Slavs, Thracians, and Asiatic tribes. This mixture evolved into a homogeneous entity, the people now called Bulgarians. The foreign invasions of the past Winter 1987-Spring 1988 1,000 years left no racial mark, it seems. The implication is that members of the Turkish minority are merely Bulgarians who happen to speak Turkish.

Experts at the Bulgarian Institute of Brain Research - Yugoslavia's Tanjug news agency reports - have meanwhile been studying the Bulgarian brain. Their preliminary findings, just released, show that it has been toughened by centuries of hardship and has developed its own peculiar way of thinking. But the researchers also found evidence to suggest that Bulgarians are not using their grey matter enough. The institute's director is said to have called on "owners of Bulgaria's 9m brains to keep thinking as much as possible". They might start by reflecting on the validity of the sort of research into racial purity which went out of fashion with Nazi Germany.

Bread in the USSR

We only recently found the following news bulletin:

In December of 1986, in response to complaints of poor quality and rapid spoilage, the Soviets announced the introduction of standards for 6 new higher quality varieties of bread. The prices of these new varieties will be higher than those of existing types and reflect the better

quality flour, the increased yeast, and the reduced moisture and acid content. The moisture and salt content of existing varieties will be reduced, but without any price change. The new varieties will be introduced in measure as the bakeries can be geared up to produce them. No increases in government budgetary revenues turnover tax) are planned to be imbedded in the new prices.

(Planovoye Khozyaistvo, January 1987.)

Does this mean that the Soviets are also eating Wonder Bread these days?

Organizations

The Social Science History Association

We wish to draw your attention to an organization which seems relevant to the interests of many EEAG members. The Social Science History Association is committed to the view that systematic inquiry into the past, using the tools of scientific investigation, is of central value to historians and historiography. . .and that the historical perspective is equally crucial to the scientific study of society. The Association was founded in 1974 to bring together historians and social scientists - those scholars who believe that interdisciplinary approaches are of vital importance to the understanding of societies, past and present. The Association publishes a journal, *Social Science History*, and a series of books, "New Approaches to Social Science History," co-edited by Stanley Engerman and John Model. Annual dues are \$20.00 (\$12.00 for graduate students) and include a subscription to *Social Science History*. To join, contact Social Science History, Duke University Press, 6697 College Station, Durham, NC 27708.

The Association will hold its thirteenth annual meeting November 3-6, 1988, at the Bismarck Hotel, 171 West Randolph Street, Chicago, IL. Sessions are planned on migration and immigration, religion, family history and historical demography, rural history, women's history, economic history, political history, urban history, criminal justice and legal history, the history of education, labor history, and methods and theory.

Europeanist Group Organized at IU

The Department of Anthropology at Indiana University - Bloomington recently announced the formation of a Europeanist group, which provides courses and dissertation supervision in European ethnology and archeology. Europeanist anthropologists on the faculty include Richard Bauman, Joelle Bahloul, Michael Herzfeld, Jerome R. Mintz, Christopher S.

Peebles, Anya Peterson Royce and K. D. Vitelli. Of these, Herzfeld (an ethnologist specializing in Greece) and Vitelli (an archeologist specializing in Greece) represent Eastern Europe. For further information, contact the Chair, Michael Herzfeld, Department of Anthropology, Rawles Hall 108, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405, or telephone (812) 335- 1203.

CONGRATULATIONS!

We have just learned that in late July, during the 12th International Congress of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences held in Zagreb, Linda Bennett was awarded The Order of the Golden Circle and Star by the Yugoslav federal government. Congratulations, Linda!

The Future of EEAG

Response to our ballot mailed early this winter was very positive. We got 36 replies, all but two of them in favor of continuing the EEAG and many of them offering to participate in the work of the group. In consequence, we feel justified in proposing arrangements for the future, along the following lines:

1) **OFFICERS.** On the basis of the activities each of you offered to participate in, we propose two slates of new officers. We ask that anyone who wishes to nominate him/herself or someone else for one of these positions write to David Kideckel (Central Connecticut State University) or Linda Bennett (Memphis State University) by September 1 (please do not write to Katherine Verdery, who will be in Romania). Also, if anyone nominated below is not willing to serve, please write to David or Linda withdrawing your name. The positions are for members of the steering committee in charge of membership and program. The membership job will consist of keeping track of who has paid dues and of who has expressed interest in one or another activity; our ballot provides the basis for this, which will need only to be updated. The program job will consist of paying for the room for our meeting at the annual AAA convention and organizing or asking someone else to organize a session for the convention; responses to our mailed ballot show that many people are willing to organize such a session or give papers, so the program chair will have minimal work along these lines. Neither of these jobs requires much work or any expense (costs will be reimbursed by the EEAG).

We wish to emphasize that only some of those who expressed willingness to be involved in one or another task appear on our list of nominations; we will keep a record of your responses for future elections to office. (You may, of course, nominate yourself now if you wish to serve.) We very much appreciate the positive response that enables us to propose several people for each position and have some "in reserve."

We will mail a ballot in early fall with definitive slates and will install our two new officers at the meeting in November. Proposed candidates for Membership are: Stephen Dunn (Highgate Road Social Science Research Station), Mark Forry (University of California at Los Angeles), Shirley Hauck (Anchorage, AL) and Joel Marrant (Linfield College). Proposed candidates for Program are Susan Gal (Rutgers University), Eva Huseby-Darvas (University of Michigan at Dearborn), and Judith Rasson (Pacific Lutheran University).

2) *NEWSLETTER*. It is not yet certain who will take over the *Newsletter* from Bill Lockwood. A couple of people expressed interest but cannot commit themselves until their job situations are clear. A gratifying number of you expressed willingness to contribute columns to the *Newsletter*, so if we can come up with an institutional home, the new editor will have a lot to work with. We hope to be able to announce something definitive in November.

Since this is Bill's last issue as editor, we wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to him for the energy and dedication he has given to the *Newsletter*. Everyone's responses to the ballot made it clear that the *Newsletter* is the one thing we all want. Thanks, Bill, for creating such a valuable resource for us.

Linda Bennett
Memphis State University

Katherine Verdery
John Hopkins University