

РЕЦЕНЗИИ

**M. Ilieva. Socio-economic transformation in Bulgaria
(LAP Lambert Academic Publishing, Saarbrücken,
Germany, 2013. – 106 p.
ISBN 978-3-659-46917-6)**

I.A. Rodionova

Peoples' Friendship University of Russia
Miklukho-Maklaya str., 6, Moscow, Russia, 117198

Transformation processes in Central and Eastern Europe countries in 1990s and at the beginning of XXI century are the subject of research in different fields of knowledge. The book “Socio-economic transformation in Bulgaria” characterizes dynamics of socio-economic changes in Bulgaria during the period 1990—2011 from geographical point of view. The author of this book, Professor of Socio-economic Geography, Doctor of Sciences Margarita Ilieva, is a famous Bulgarian geographer. She is a Professor at Bulgarian Academy of Science. During long-time period she was an Editor-in-Chief of the journal “Problem of Geography”. Autor of more than 160 refereed papers and books. Now M. Ilieva is a Head of Department of Geography at the Kazimierz Wielki University in Bydgoszcz, Poland.

As we know, this book is based on the material of unique comprehensive geographical research of the processes of transformation in Bulgaria published in the book “Socio-economic transformation in Bulgaria — peculiarities and territorial differences” (published in Bulgarian language in 2012). Now has been updated with new data, facts and analyses.

The book includes introduction, 5 chapters and conclusion. After short introduction, the first chapter presents the theoretical-methodological approaches of the research. The geographic approach to the research problem and the task, connected with theoretical generalization of the scientific works, published up by Bulgarian geographers and foreign authors in the period 1990—2012, have determined the type and time-span of the publications analyzed in this work. The author illustrates socio-economic transformation in Bulgaria as “long complicated, tough and sometimes dramatic process of changes

towards market economy” (p. 8). Special attention is paid to clarification of methods for analyses of territorial differences in ongoing processes. Peculiarities in transformation processes in Bulgaria are discussed in next 3 chapters — changes in national economy (Chapter 2 — “Transformation Processes in the National Economy of Bulgaria in the 1990s and at the Beginning of the 21st Century”), in one its sub-branch system (Chapter 3 — “Transformation Processes in Bulgarian Agriculture”) and in one functional system (Chapter 4 — “Labour Market in Bulgaria in the 1990s and at the Beginning of the 21st Century”). Many comparisons with other countries with transforming economy in Central and Eastern Europe or with EU have places in these chapters.

The most valuable from geographic point of view is research of territorial differences in transformation processes in Bulgaria and her place among other countries with transforming economy (Chapter 5 “Territorial Differences in the Achieved Level of Socio-Economic Transformation”).

The investigation of the processes of socio-economic transformation in Bulgaria clearly indicates that the „Bulgarian mode“ has its characteristic features, resulting from the specific conditions in the country. Significant differences in the transformation process in the individual units are presented on the basis of analysis of single indicators and the calculated values of integral indicator. The research presents also the place of Bulgaria between other countries with transforming economy in Central and Eastern Europe in this chapter. The best results in transformation was achieved in South-West regions of Bulgaria, in Sofia-capital, in Varna and Burgas districts. These territorial units can be conditionally defined as “winners” in transformation. But in comparison with other regions in the EU configuration, even these territorial units are as underdeveloped. Bulgaria should be classified among the group of „losers“ in the Central and Eastern European countries with transforming economies.

Very short conclusion summarizes the results of the research. Would be very valuable have some practical recommendations from this research. Many tables, charts and maps complete each chapter of the book (total 40 figures and 17 tables). The list of literature includes many positions of publications (over 170, in Bulgarian, Polish, English, German languages) and documents concerning present-day development of this country.

Publication of the results of such a comprehensive study on the socio-economic transformation in Bulgaria in English (LAP Lambert Academic Publishing, Saarbrücken, Germany, 2013) will allow more readers to get acquainted with the economic situation and the changes that have occurred in this European country in recent decades. This study also contributes to a better understanding of the processes in Central and East Europe at the current stage of development and can be one of the numerous and necessary steps towards the elaboration of the transformation theory. This book will be interesting and useful for professionals and students in geography, economics, regional science, social learning and other areas and for people who are interested in the analysis of socio-economic changes in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe in the late 1990s and at beginning of XXI century.

**М. Илиева. Социально-экономические
преобразования в Болгарии**

И.А. Родионова

Российский университет дружбы народов
ул. Миклухо-Макля, 6, Москва, Россия, 117198

Страны Центральной и Восточной Европы приступили к системной трансформации экономики и политической системы, имея разные стартовые условия, что в значительной степени определило достигнутые ими на сегодняшний день результаты. В рецензируемой книге динамику социально-экономических изменений в Болгарии в период с начала 1990-х годов автор рассматривает с географической точки зрения, характеризуя их как длительный, сложный, жесткий, а иногда даже драматический процесс изменений при переходе к рыночной модели экономики.