

Memorandum

Short History of the Macedonian Question

The Ferman of the Sultan from 1870 makes 125 years of the creation of the Bulgarian Exarchate. The population in Macedonia was granted the right to a Bulgarian Church upon a two thirds vote by the people. At the time there was no Bulgarian State. In 2 to 3 decades over 1,350 Bulgarian churches were built with 1,440 priests and 1,280 schools with 2,165 teachers. Exarch Joseph said: "The Bulgarian churches were not like any other, where people go just to cross themselves. They are fireplaces, centers of Bulgarian resistance."

John Reed, an American journalist stayed and intimately studied Macedonia for many months. He said: "The Sultan's Ferman legalized the truth that the majority of the population in Macedonia are Bulgarians."

The SAN STEFANO Peace Treaty 1878 created the new Bulgarian state which incorporated Macedonia. The Treaty was drawn up in accordance with recognized authoritative ethnographic boundaries which consistently showed the majority of the population of Macedonia was Bulgarian.

The **Berlin Congress** 1878, created the Macedonian Question by severing Macedonia from Bulgaria and condemning the Bulgarians in Macedonia back to the Ottoman rule, by inviting through implicit consent and express secret treaties joint territorial attacks by the Serb and Greeks against Macedonia, and in cooperation with Russia prohibits Bulgaria from coming to aid the plight of its brothers and sisters.

The **Internal Macedonian Odrin Revolutionary Organization** (IMORO) 1893 was constitutionally created by Bulgarians for liberation of Macedonia and Thrace from the Turks. On **Ilinden** 1903 IMORO led the uprising against the Ottoman rule, outnumbered 10 to 1 by the Turkish army. The revolt resulted in severe repercussions but shook the very foundation of the Ottoman Empire, which was never to rise again. Ilinden was historical revolutionary event.

The 1913 **Bucharest Treaty** divided Macedonia and its people into three pieces. Greece was given 50%, Serbia 40% and Bulgaria 10%. The hostile and repressive foreign rule of Serbia and Greece immediately closed all Bulgarian schools and churches, killed or exiled the priests and teachers, and changed the names of the people, towns and villages to Greek and Serbian. The Bulgarians became South Serbs and Slav speaking Greeks.

On May 5, 1935 **New York Times** quotes part of the book "*Heroes and Assassins*" by Walter Littlefield and writes: "Contrary to the clauses of the minorities in the peace Treaties, Greece immediately started Hellenizing its part of Macedonia, and Yugoslavia (Great Serbia, the spoiled child of the Neuilly Peace Treaty Conference) serbinized its part. Compared with the new "masters", the Turks were angels."

Post World War II, Stalin and the Comintern by force and terror imposed upon Bulgarians in Macedonia the political fiction of the new Macedonian nationality.

In October 1943, the Serb Svetozar Vukmanovitch Tempo, without any representation from Macedonia declared the new Macedonian "nationality" and new "language". The population in Pirin Macedonia, under the direction of Georgi Dimitrov, met the same fate. Aegean Macedonia through the Civil War underwent the same inhuman destruction and ethnic cleansing.

In the three parts of Macedonia in the 40's, to be pointed as Bulgarian meant certain death.

That is how Macedonian nationality was created by Stalin, Comintern and Tito.