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## ON THE HISTORY OF THE GYPSIES/ROMANIES IN BULGARIA (1878-1944)

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Due to the traditional “national” and “political” orientations of the historiography and because of the stereotype idea that the Gypsies/Romany do not have a separate political history, until recently this community has been an object of study for ethnologists, philologists, sociologists, but not for historians. The social and ethnic character of the community demands interdisciplinary studies on the social and ethnic components of its history. This article is focused on three problems of the Gypsies' history in Bulgaria from 1878 to 1944 — the social integration, the acts of discrimination, and Gypsies' organizations and theirs demands. The social marginality and the slow and spontaneous social integration of the Gypsies, the incident acts of discrimination and the lack of purposeful policy for integration on the part of the state, the modest experience of the Gypsies' organizations and demands for non-discrimination and defending community interests get meaning in the historical context of the Nation State in the time of ethnic nationalism.