

Cultural identity of Muslim Bulgarians: challenges of time and choice of a way

The report focuses on the study of the complex issue of the existence and identity construction of Muslim Bulgarians - a cultural and religious group living in different regions of present-day Bulgaria and abroad.

The different versions of the origin of the Muslim Bulgarians will be examined in historical perspective. The modern trends in their own self-determination and the formation of the ethnic identity will be discussed. The author will represent different points of view on their identity (linguistic, ethnic, cultural, religious, "multiple", "wavering" and others).

Compactly living in the various regions of Bulgaria the Pomaks often have diametrically opposed aspirations in the field of self-identification, as well as in the field of customs, behavior, degree of religiosity, openness to the "other / different", system of names.

Particular attention will be paid to the role of language and traditional culture in these processes.

The author relies on its own field data collected in different years from 2001 to 2014 during expeditions in the Middle and Eastern Rhodopes and the region Teteven.