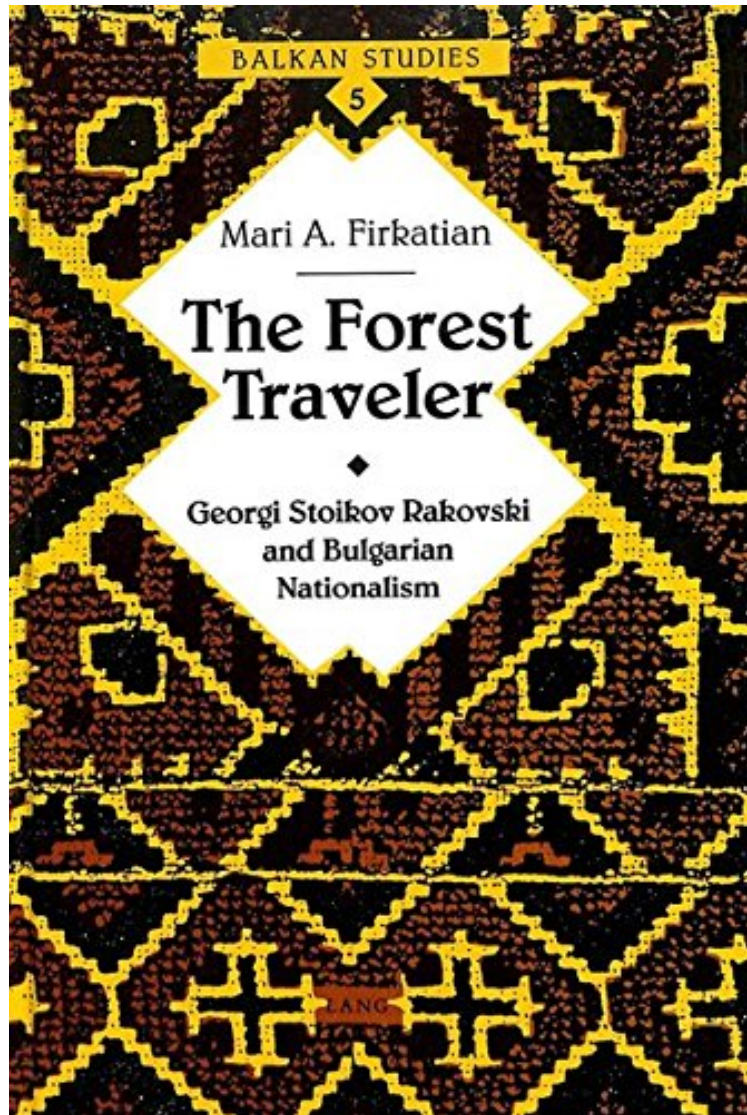


[E-BOOK] The Forest Traveler: Georgi Stoikov Rakovski and Bulgarian Nationalism (Balkan Studies)

The Forest Traveler: Georgi Stoikov Rakovski and Bulgarian Nationalism (Balkan Studies)

Mari A. Firkatian

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Mari A. Firkatian : The Forest Traveler: Georgi Stoikov Rakovski and Bulgarian Nationalism (Balkan Studies) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Forest Traveler: Georgi Stoikov Rakovski and Bulgarian Nationalism (Balkan Studies):

The Forest Traveler is a penetrating inquiry into the life and activities of one of the most important national heroes of Bulgarian history. Georgi Stoikov Rakovski's life (1821-1867) mirrored a period of turbulent events in Southeast Europe. This in-depth biography unfolds against the backdrop of the declining Ottoman empire as Bulgaria underwent a period of national renaissance in the nineteenth century. The activists who spearheaded attempts to liberate their country from Ottoman rule were romantic idealists who borrowed their theories of nation building and national rights from abroad. As a literary figure and a revolutionary, Rakovski's image colors most Bulgarians' perception of their modern history. This work aims to strip away much of the mythological aura that surrounds Rakovski's life and to present this revered revolutionary as a more realistic figure.

An excellent example of the biographical genre, Mari Firkatian's book on Rakovski is a solid piece of research and historiographical reassessment. It presents for the first time to an English-speaking audience one of the important, and at the same time, controversial figures of the Bulgarian national idea and revolutionary movement of the nineteenth century. 'The Forest Traveler' not only contributes to Bulgarian studies but provides comparative material for the study of European romantic nationalism in the period of its construction. (Maria Todorova) Biographers of great national heroes risk creating one-dimensional images. Although Rakovski is one such hero to Bulgarians, 'The Forest Traveler' is a thoroughly researched biography - unbiased to the point of severity - that is an important contribution to the history of the political and spiritual awakening of Bulgaria in the second half of the nineteenth century. Not only does it refresh, systematize, and put into perspective all I knew about Rakovski, it provides a wealth of little-known facts and information.... Mari Firkatian's scholarly scrutiny into a pantheon usually reserved for enshrinement is impressive; and yet, despite our sincerest commitment to historiographic objectivity, I couldn't help but feel disturbed by the warts on the icon. (Stephane Groueff)From the PublisherThe Forest Traveler is a penetrating inquiry into the life and activities of one of the most important national heroes of Bulgarian history. Georgi Stoikov Rakovski's life (1821-1867) mirrored a period of turbulent events in Southeast Europe. This in-depth biography unfolds against the backdrop of the declining Ottoman empire as Bulgaria underwent a period of national renaissance in the nineteenth century. The activists who spearheaded attempts to liberate their country from Ottoman rule were romantic idealists who borrowed their theories of nation building and national rights from abroad. As a literary figure and a revolutionary, Rakovski's image colors most Bulgarians' perception of their modern history. This work aims to strip away much of the mythological aura that surrounds Rakovski's life and to present this revered revolutionary as a more realistic figure. An excellent example of the biographical genre, Mari Firkatian's book on Rakovski is a solid piece of research and historiographical reassessment. It presents for the first time to an English-speaking audience one of the important, and at the same time, controversial figures of the Bulgarian national idea and revolutionary movement of the nineteenth century. Maria Todorova Biographers of great national heroes risk creating one-dimensional images. Although Rakovski is one such hero to Bulgarians, The Forest Traveler is a thoroughly researched biography unbiased to the point of severity that is an important contribution to the history of the political and spiritual awakening of Bulgaria in the second half of the nineteenth century. Stephane GroueffAbout the AuthorThe Author: Mari A. Firkatian received her Ph.D. from Indiana University and specializes in East European history. She has lived and traveled extensively in Southeast Europe.