



The **American Research Center in Sofia (ARCS)**, established in 2004, is dedicated to research in the humanities and social sciences and represents a consortium of educational institutions registered in North America. Its major mission is promoting academic cooperation between countries in Southeast Europe and North America. This is its first scholarly publication, in a series of planned monographs on Bulgarian history from prehistory through the modern age. **The book is**

available on amazon.com. It can also be purchased directly from the publisher (www.einaudi.cornell.edu/arcs; email address: todor7@hotmail.com; kavrakirovo@yahoo.es); a 20% discount is available for orders of over 20 books. Hard cover, pp. 432, \$39.95.

Nassya Krlevska-Owens is a Bulgaria-born journalist who lives and works in Philadelphia. In 2001 she published the book *Untitled: Destroyers and Builders of Bulgaria* in her native land. It went through four editions and several reprints. *Communism versus Democracy: Bulgaria 1944 to 1997* is an enriched, modified and updated English version of the same work.

The author of the introduction, **Prof. Mark Kramer**, is the director of the Harvard Cold War Studies Project at Harvard University and a senior fellow at Harvard's Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies. He has worked extensively in newly opened archives in Russia, Ukraine, Germany, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania, Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia as well as in the archives of several Western countries. Mark Kramer is the author of numerous books and the editor of *The Black Book of Communism* (Harvard University Press, 1999) and several others.

"I present this book to the readers with excitement. It is written with passion and above all with meticulous attention to the facts of my nation's history. The aim of my research is to clarify what happened in



Bulgaria after a communist party with less than 6000 members usurped power in 1944, with the help of the Soviet occupation force. Also to explain why, after the fall of the Berlin Wall, the road back to democratic Bulgaria turned out thorny and uneven. The fate of my country, a member of the European Union since 2007, is analogous to that of the other Eastern European states where communist dictatorships were established after

World War II. I try to reveal the true nature of the communist regime to a western readership and to portray the effect it had on ordinary people. The crimes of the red totalitarian rule should not be underestimated."

Nassya Krlevska-Owens

POLITICAL SCIENCE/HISTORY/EASTERN EUROPE

... *Communism versus Democracy* illustrates with brilliant clarity that communist rhetoric about the good of mankind only meant “the masses” as an impersonal abstraction, while in fact the communists preached and practiced profound disregard for the individual. ... Those who wish to know about the Cold War, Eastern Europe, and Bulgaria in the second half of the 20th century will profit enormously from reading this book.

- Prof. KEVIN CLINTON, Cornell University; President and Co-founder, American Research Center in Sofia (ARCS)

... Balancing an amazingly rich array of sources – archival documents, history books, newspaper publications, eyewitness evidence, personal diaries, confessions and interviews – Nassya Kravetska-Owens’ monograph offers the reader what no textbook can achieve: empathy with every event described. A goldmine for the historian of Eastern Europe, *Communism versus Democracy* will also be of substantial interest to anyone who wishes to learn what went on behind the Iron Curtain, both in its factual and human dimensions ...

- Dr. NORA DIMITROVA, Co-founder and Trustee, ARCS

This is an original and compelling study of communism and especially the formative years of post-communism in Bulgaria. ... Perhaps the most original argument in the book is the similarly powerful impact of external actors and precedents on the transitions to both communism and post-communism.

- Prof. VALERIE JANE BUNCE, Cornell University, Department of Government

Communism versus Democracy is written with great vigor and sparkle, and the author’s presentation is strongly convincing. Events, people, politicians, and eyewitnesses are vividly described. ... The author makes an impressive contribution to the search for historical truth. Her passionate and powerful writing grips the reader to the last page. ...

- Dr. HEINZ BRAHM, former Research Director of the Federal Institute of Eastern European and International Studies, Cologne, Germany

This book demonstrates that Bulgaria, a European country, which is generally ignored and frequently misunderstood, has finally found its masterful chronicler. ... Nassya Kravetska-Owens has undoubtedly set the standard against which future attempts to retell the story of Bulgaria’s metamorphoses after 1989 will be measured.

- Prof. VENELIN I. GANEV, Miami University, author of *Preying on the State: The Transformation of Bulgaria after 1989*

Communism versus Democracy: Bulgaria 1944 to 1997, by the renowned Bulgarian journalist Nassya Kravetska-Owens, is the most unique and authoritative documentary about two revolutionary decades in the country’s history: the establishment of the communist regime in the 1940s and the struggling democratic movement of the 1990s. Well-reasoned and masterfully written, it is an important case study about communism, post-communism, and democratization in contemporary Bulgaria.

- PETER STOYANOV, President of the Republic of Bulgaria, 1997-2002