REVIEW

by Professor Georgi Stoyanov Karastoyanov, DSc, Rakovski National Defence College, Professional field: 3.2. Psychology,
for the dissertation work of Yulian Vasilev Haralampiev
with title:" ATTITUDES TOWARDS WAR, SOCIAL-GROUP IDENTITY, AND PERSONAL AGGRESSION "
presented for the awarding of the educational and scientific degree "doctor" in professional field: 3.2. Psychology, doctoral program "Social Psychology"

The review was assigned according to Protocol No. 1/16.04.2026 of the meeting of the Scientific Jury, selected by decision of the Scientific Council of the Institute for Population and Human Studies - BAS and approved by order of the Director of the Institute for Population and Human Studies -BAS No. RD – 6 – 167 of 14.04.2026. To prepare the opinion, I was provided with the doctoral student's CV, the dissertation, the abstract of the dissertation, electronic copies of the publications on the topic of the dissertation, a similarity check report, as well as other documents related to the doctoral student's training. The submitted documents show that Yulian Vasilev Haralampiev has successfully completed the activities envisaged in the individual curriculum for the

entire duration of the doctoral studies, has passed the necessary exams and has successfully passed the legal procedure for admission to defense for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "doctor" in accordance with the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation, the Rules on the conditions and procedure for acquiring science degrees and holding academic positions in the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences**,** as well as the Rules of Procedure for the Scientific Committees at the Institute for Population and Human Studies at Bulgarian Academy of Sciences regarding the procedures for the defense of dissertations for the award of the educational and scientific degree of "Doctor" and the scientific degree of "Doctor of Science".

The dissertation focuses on a significant problem in at least two aspects.

As a research problem - although individual concepts included in the study such as aggression have been studied in Bulgarian psychology, the relationship with, as well as between national identity, patriotism, nationalism, group identity is almost unexplored except in essay formats. To the extent that I am aware of, this is the first serious study on this topic, which in turn implies a high degree of difficulty, considering that it is a dissertation work.

Second, as an important problem for society - in the context of the events taking place in Europe and the world, the results of the study are

extremely important for national security and would help make important decisions in the context of the increasing mass perception of uncertainty regarding peace and war today.

I believe that the topic "ATTITUDES TOWARDS WAR, SOCIAL-GROUP IDENTITY AND PERSONAL AGGRESSION" corresponds to the main content of the text submitted for review. Structurally, the dissertation follows the classical model for psychological research - theoretical overview of the research problem (first chapter), formulation of the empirical study (second chapter), analysis and interpretation of the results (third chapter).

The dissertation is presented on a total of 196 pages, of which 185 pages are text and cited literature, and 10 appendices in a volume of 11 pages, in which the tools used are presented, which allows for a more complete tracking of all stages of the empirical research. The data from the empirical research are correctly presented and illustrated through 46 tables and 12 figures. The literary sources used are 298, of which 17 are in Cyrillic, the rest in English, which is a natural proportion given the lack of serious research on the topic. They are cited correctly in the text and include both classical works and contemporary research from the last ten years. The cited online sources were accessible upon verification.

The structure, volume and layout of the dissertation submitted for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "doctor" correspond to good research practices in the professional field 3.2. "Psychology". A good balance has been achieved in the presentation of the theoretical overview on the one hand (about one half of the total content)

and the empirical research. The introduction to the dissertation convincingly justifies the relevance and significance of the topic.

In the first chapter, a complete and in-depth analysis of the scientific literature relevant to the research problem is made, analyzing the classical and innovative concepts, which I consider as a contribution of the dissertation, considering that it has been relatively poorly studied by Bulgarian psychologists, to the extent that I am familiar with it.

The in-depth theoretical overview has allowed in the second chapter to correctly propose adequate goals and sub-goals, present a correct design of the study and formulate five logical tasks of the empirical study. The main and partial hypotheses raised are theoretically justified. A detailed description of the organization and conduct of the study, a description of the sample, and a correct description of the limitations of the empirical study are provided. The research methods used are presented in sufficient volume. In the third chapter, the obtained empirical results are analyzed competently and correctly from the point of view of the theoretical overview of the problem and in accordance with the set tasks for verifying the hypotheses raised. The conclusions and recommendations made in the conclusion are justified in the context of the obtained empirical data and the preceding theoretical overview.

The critical comments made during the preliminary defense and the defense for admission to the public defense have been taken into account and incorporated into the text.

The results of the research on the topic of the dissertation are correctly presented to the critical eye of the psychological community with

three independent publications at international and national scientific forums, which is an indicator by which it can be judged that the scientific contributions in the dissertation are the personal contribution of the doctoral student. The three publications presented cover the minimum national requirements for awarding the educational and scientific degree "doctor" in the professional field 3.2. Psychology according to Art. 2 b of the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

I have not identified any violations of academic ethics, incorrect citation or plagiarism in the dissertation submitted for review.

I have no significant critical remarks on the dissertation.

I believe that the dissertation contains important scientific and applied scientific results for revealing the interrelationships between national and group identity, patriotism, nationalism, aggression and attitudes towards war. They can be accepted as original scientific contributions, as the doctoral student claims in the dissertation.

The presented dissertation shows that Julian Haralampiev has a very good theoretical background in the field of psychology, combined with methodological preparation for planning and conducting empirical research and analyzing their results.

The overall evaluation of the dissertation shows that it meets the requirements of the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation, the Rules on the conditions and procedure for acquiring science degrees and holding academic positions in the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, as well as the

Rules of Procedure for the Scientific Committees at the Institute for Population and Human Studies at Bulgarian Academy of Sciences regarding the procedures for the defense of dissertations for the award of the educational and scientific degree of "Doctor" and the scientific degree of "Doctor of Science". Based on my positive assessments of the dissertation research, the presented publications, the doctoral candidate's demonstrated methodological competence, and the indisputable scientific contributions, I propose that the esteemed members of the scientific jury vote for Yulian Haralampiev, who has submitted a dissertation on the topic "Attitudes toward War, Social-Group Identity, and Personal Aggression," be awarded the educational and scientific degree of "Doctor" in professional field 3.1. "Psychology" within the higher education area 3. "Social, Economic, and Legal Sciences," doctoral program "Social Psychology."

Sofia

05/04/2026 г.

Professor Georgi Karastoyanov