

## PROGNOSIS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF TOWN OF SMYADOVO /RESEARCH ESSAY/

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**ABSTRACT:** SMYADOVO IS A CITY IN ANCIENT TIMES, WHICH HAVE THE STRONGEST PERIOD IN ITS DEVELOPMENT PERIOD UP TO 1989. FORECAST OF ITS DEVELOPMENT IS THAT IT WILL DEVELOP IN THE FUTURE THROUGH TOURISM AND RECREATION. IT IS NOTED THAT IN THIS CITY, AS IN OTHER SMALL BULGARIAN TOWNS, BOTH NOW AND IN THE FUTURE WILL PREVAIL ADULTS.

**KEY WORDS:** ANCIENT HISTORY, CEMETERIES, OTTOMAN RULE, HISTORICAL MONUMENTS, PEOPLE, ADULTS, TOURISM

**THERE** is a small town unknown to almost anyone, which is situated 25km away from VelikiPreslav, 103km away from Bourgas, and 367km away from Sofia. The town is called Smyadovo and it is cozily situated on the northern slopes of the eastern Staraplanina. This is my hometown, the place where I grew up and the place where my childhood passed. The place is filled with memories and emotions and it has a significant meaning to me.

**SMYADOVO** is a town with ancient history and the archeological findings found there can testify that. The nine necropolises found in the town and its vicinity give the specialists a reason to believe that there has been life there since 5<sup>th</sup>– 4<sup>th</sup> c. BC. It is most likely that our town started its existence as a roadside settlement as there was a highway going through. Some of the travelers of that time called it Via Smiadova. There are several legends about the name of Smyadovo and according to one of them the town came into being during the Ottoman oppression. The husband of the beautiful Smyadawas killed during Turkish prosecutions. Mortified by the loss of her husband Smyada and her 14 sons moved to these lands and she became her sons' leader in the struggle against the Turkish invaders. One of the sightseeing in Smyadovo is the monument bridge built over the river Smyadovska. The bridge was built in memory of the soldiers who died in the wars from 1912 to 1918 and it connects the town centre with the National Revival complex.

**THE** National Revival complex is an interesting sightseeing by itself. It consists of a restored church school built in 1846, an art gallery and the church "SvetiArhangelMihail" built in 1869. The residents of Smyadovo are proud of their famous lukanka ('flat sausage'), prepared after a special recipe. Smyadovo'slukankahas been made in town ever since 1924 and its unique taste is owed not only to the original recipe but also to a special breed of pigs, raised only in that area, namely the black east-Balkan breed. Unfortunately in 1989 the

factory in town was restituted and ceased to exist. What is interesting is that the famous east-Balkan pig was worked into the town's crest.

**SMYADOVO** and its surroundings will not disappoint those who love nature. The natural sightseeing "Sofata" is about 9 km away from Veselinovo village. The natural phenomenon is a huge rock without any vegetation, surrounded by centuries-old woods. In ancient times the Thracians made sacrifices on that rock to their gods for peace and fertility. Even today one can see clearly the specially carved chutes in the rock where the Thracians placed their gifts to the gods.

**THE** population of Smyadovo today is 4100 people while in 1989 it was 5200 people. Our town is small, with small population and therefore there is almost no progress. There are not enough work places for the residents of the town and people are forced to work in the bigger cities. Twenty years ago when the chemical plant and the factory producing Smyadovskalukanka in town were working, the working places were enough for the residents of Smyadovo but their closure led to lack of job opportunities.

**WE** hope that Smyadovo will develop in a positive way in the future. There are several European Union projects which have been approved and won. The town centre already sports a new image owing to the subsidies from the Union. Next in line is replacement of the sewerage of the whole town and after that asphaltting the roads. Seventy per cent of the population works in the nearest bigger towns like Shumen. The only employment available in town nowadays is in the private sector.

**IN** my opinion the population is gradually decreasing and there are mostly elderly people who remain in town while the young generation seeks progress either abroad or in the more developed cities where the standard of life is completely different. There are several people who somehow managed to establish private businesses in town, but their number is limited. We shouldn't give up and leave our hometowns even though they are small. We should help them progress and continue to exist if not for the working conditions and standard of life, at least for the nature they have.

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