

## AN OVERVIEW OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF VELIKI PRESŁAV /RESEARCH ESSAY/

RADKA KRUMOVA

STUDENT IN SOCIAL ACTIVITIES,  
SHUMEN UNIVERSITY "KONSTANTIN BISHOP OF PRESŁAV"

BULGARIA  
RADI\_6622@ABV.BG

**ABSTRACT:** IN 893 VELIKI PRESŁAV BECAME THE CAPITAL OF THE BULGARIAN STATE AND IT QUICKLY BECAME A LITERARY CENTER, WHICH IS DEVELOPING THE SLAVONIC ALPHABET. IT WAS THE CAPITAL OVER EIGHTY YEARS - UP TO 927 YEARS. IN THE PERIOD OF SOCIALISM, HE TURNS INTO A SMALL INDUSTRIAL CENTER, BUT AFTER 1989 - THE CHANGE OF THE POLITICAL SYSTEM TO DEMOCRACY, AS IN MANY SMALL TOWNS OF BULGARIA AND VELIKI PRESŁAV MARKS REGRESS. THE FUTURE OF THE CITY WILL BE TOWARDS THE PRODUCTION OF RARE WINES, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT, TOURIST GUEST HOUSES, ETC.

**KEY WORDS:** OLD CAPITAL, A LITERARY CENTER, INDUSTRIAL CENTER, POVERTY, MIGRATION, TOURISM, RARE WINES, GUEST HOUSES

**PRESŁAV** was established in the second half of the 9th century during the rule of Knyaz Boris I as a military camp with a fortified castle and a garrison, situated 30 km away from the capital of the First Bulgarian Kingdom Pliska. In 893 the city was pronounced the capital of the Bulgarian Kingdom and it became a literary centre where the development of the Slavic written language took place. The name of Veliki Preslav was also associated with the name of the person who was most influential in that period in Southeastern Europe – Tsar Simeon the Great. Preslav was a capital for about eighty years (893-927). The National Historical-Architectural Reserve and museum is also located in the city. The museum hosts part of the more than 35 000 objects found there. The museum was established on 26<sup>th</sup> October 1906. The Reserve is one of the 100 Tourist sites of Bulgaria. Nowadays the Round church, known as a Golden church is partly reconstructed in Preslav. The church was built in the beginning of the 10th century during the rule of Tsar Simeon. It was excavated and examined for the first time in 1927-28.

WE cannot imagine Veliki Preslav without its glorious history, without the rule of Tsar Simeon and the Golden Age of Bulgarian culture, without its unique cultural monuments, without its present. In order to perpetuate, make famous, and glorify the town historians, archeologists, writers, and poets have written hundreds of pages about the town.

**AFTER** the Bulgarian liberation from the Ottomans Preslav remained an agricultural settlement, although in 1883 with a decision of the National Assembly it was declared a town and became a district centre. During Russo-Turkish War the rich Ottomans migrated from Preslav and sold their lands cheaply. Bigger part of the population of Preslav was comprised of medium size agricultural farmers. At the end of 1927 the richest farmer owned 150 dears of land.

**VITICULTURE** was an important branch in the agriculture of Preslav. Dessert and wine varieties of grape were planted. The trade with grape and wines began. A new sort of vine was grown and it developed the viticulture in Preslav. After 1934 viticulture became a lucrative industry. Export of dessert varieties of grape started. Preslav became more busy – men and women migrated from near and far. Every owner brewed rakia in small cauldrons and these places were used by men as a meeting spot.

**THE** Agriculturalist is partly a stock breeder. In every yard there were different animals.

**IN** Preslav there were also craftsmen, skillful masters of men's clothes which were peculiar for that area. Women weaved all necessary cloths and carpets with beautiful decoration.

**CARPENTRY** developed in the city, too. These traditions have lasted up to the present day. In Preslav was produced beautiful furniture. The first industrial plant was the factory for soft drinks of Tsvyatko Yakimov who delivered machines for filling bottles up.

**AFTER** 9<sup>th</sup> September 1944, the city changed its outlook. Construction of public buildings started – trading centres, National bank, and a post office. The streets were covered with asphalt and the development of the riverfront boulevard started. The city became bigger, it welcomed new inhabitants, and new blocks of flats were built. In 1944 the inhabitants of Preslav reached 4127 people. It was the administrative centre of the district. In 1947 the nationalization of private enterprises occurred. It affected large farm machines, private wine cellars, workshops for lemonade, and sawmills.

**THE** first state enterprise – a state alcohol monopoly – was opened in Preslav at the beginning of 1948. The second enterprise was state-owned and was later on transformed into an industrial combine, which included mills, primitive water-mills, workshop for lemonade in Preslav and Varbitsa and a pig farm in Kochovo.

**THE** first cooperations were established in 1948. The Agrarian industrial complex Veliki Preslav was founded in 1970 and in 1973 it became a national leader in viticulture.

**IN** 1951 on the territory of Preslav was built the institute machine-agrimotor station, which in 1965 was differentiated as the only specialized machine building factory for agricultural trailers in Bulgaria.

**THE** most authoritative enterprise "Winery" Preslav developed in 1955 when it put into service a wine cellar, in 1966 an automatic cellar for filling up and maturation of wines, and in 1967 they built an industrial unit for brandy. The Winery has been exporting wines and brandy mostly to the USSR and the ex-socialist countries.

**THE** industrial enterprise "Patleina" was established in the 1960s. It was specialized in woodworking, metalworking, and production of products of cement and plastic.

**THERE** were also the industrial enterprise "Mebel" (for furniture), the cotton twisting plant "Zora" and a factory for electronic units.

**AFTER** 1989 "Vinex" asserted itself as the leader of enterprises in Preslav. There are almost no redundancies in the winery. Its wines, brandies, and rakis are well-known for their quality. They have been exporting to the United Kingdom, USA, Canada, and the countries from BENELUX.

**THE** factory for cars' superstructures is renovating its manufacture. "Kamchia-mebel" Ltd is enjoying high recognition for its good performance and quality of production. It sells only to the internal market. The national forestry is looking after the protection and incomes of forest land, it receives proceeds from the sale of wood for fire and wood building material.

**THE** cultural life of the city has not died off – the community centre "Razvitie" is in the base of that activity. The amateur groups that have existed before have been recovered. Folklore concerts are held and in the library of the community centre "Razvitie" there are held open exhibitions and photos of some manuscripts from The Bulgarian Golden Age are displayed. In 1993 Preslav celebrated its centennial as the second capital of the Bulgarian Kingdom. The newspaper "Veliki Preslav" is created. The exposition of the archeological museum is opened and renovated and includes a number of valuable exhibits. It is exemplary of the cultural achievements of Preslav. The museum is located right next to the ruins of Veliki Preslav.

**THE** layout of the city is well arranged – it is small, but beautiful, neat with pure nature, a town which can rightfully be called Veliki Preslav ('Great Preslav'). In 1993 its name was restored.

#### Population polls:

<b>1946</b>	1956	1965	1975	1985	1992
<b>4127</b>	5499	8143	11298	10865	9969
<b>2001</b>	2005	2007	2009	2010	2011
<b>9328</b>	9265	9120	8951	8886	7655

**THE** table presents the population polls of Veliki Preslav since 1975, when the population of the town was largest in number. In the following years, however, until 2011 it has been decreasing steadily. Perhaps this is due to the closing down of the large factories and enterprises where whole families used to work.

**SHORTAGE** of work and small income makes people look for better life in some larger cities or abroad.

**NOWADAYS** the economic crisis drives people to look for job opportunities with better payment. But it is expected that the Bulgarians who are seeking livelihood abroad will return to our country and will invest experience and resources which they have acquired for the development of Veliki Preslav.

**PRIVATE** enterprises for furniture, bread, bakery, plastic units, foodstuffs, building materials, cloths, herbs, fruits, etc. will continue to operate on the territory of Veliki Preslav.

**PRODUCTION** of some selected wines, peculiar to that area will increase in the nearby villages.

**TOURISM** will also develop in Veliki Preslav, in the nearby villages and in the region around Tichadam. The basis for that development lies in the traditions and qualified staff with extensive experience.

**THE** ruins of the Old Bulgarian capital Preslav on the territory of the national historical-archeological reserve "VelikiPreslav" will continue to be a major prerequisite for the development of tourism which will be of national and international significance.

**GUEST-HOUSES** and small resort settlements, adapted specifically for rural tourism will be built.

**THE** beautiful nature and dams near VelikiPreslav which offer peace, a get-away from the busy daily life, will stimulate the revival of hobbies like hunting and fishing.

TRANSLATED BY: TAMARA ANGELOVA  
Student in Applied Linguistics (English and Russian)  
Shumen University "Konstantin Bishop of Preslav"  
e-mail: [tedi\\_angelova@mail.ru](mailto:tedi_angelova@mail.ru)

SOCIOBRAINS