

## PROGNOSIS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF MY HOME TOWN – DOLNA MITROPOLIYA /RESEARCH ESSAY/

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**ABSTRACT:** DEVELOPING THE ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER - TOWN REPUBLIC IS DETERMINED BY AGRICULTURAL PROCESSING PLANTS AND HIGHER AVIATION SCHOOL. THE AUTHOR OF THE RESEARCH ESSAY BELIEVES THAT THESE FACTORS WILL CONTINUE TO INFLUENCE THE DEVELOPMENT OF HIS HOMETOWN. MOREOVER, FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE WILL FURTHER REVITALIZE THE ECONOMIC LIFE OF THE CITY, AND HENCE LIVING STANDARDS.

**KEY WORDS:** ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER, INDUSTRIAL PLANTS, FACTORIES, UNIVERSITIES, HIGHER AVIATION SCHOOL, FOREIGN INVESTMENT, POSITIVE FUTURE

DOLNA Mitropoliya is a town in northern Bulgaria. It is situated within the Pleven province. It is located in the vicinity of the city of Pleven (11 kilometres away) and is the administrative center of the Municipality of Dolna Mitropoliya.

THERE are some favourable climatic conditions which contribute to the positive emotions. The transportation and trade sectors are well developed. The water sources of the region are mainly ground waters that comply with the minimum standard requirements. The economic development during the last few years has followed the country-wide tendencies – high levels of unemployment and bad use of available facilities.

THE major industries are the manufacturing and agricultural ones. The favourable climatic conditions in the municipality allows for a good development of agriculture as a whole, and specifically of the cultivation of vegetables and perennials – vineyards and orchards. The active industrial plants are the oil extraction factory "Zvezda", the sugar factory "Bulgarian Sugar" and a fodder factory.

THE history of Dolna Mitropoliya dates back to ancient times, back to the days of the First Bulgarian Kingdom, when at the site of a temporary village in the Barata area there emerged a new village, which existed until the 11th century.

THE first time Dolna Mitropoliya was mentioned with its current name was in an official document in 1496. During the 30s of the 19th century, Dolna Mitropoliya became one of the biggest villages in the Pleven region. In 1860 the population was roughly 650 people. On the 15th of March, 1919, the horse breeding company "Chernoglavka" was registered. Another important endeavour was the industrial cooperative "Bulgarian Sugar" founded by Dr. Palauzov and Prof. Asen Zlatarov, which began functioning on June 30th 1930. In 1948 it was nationalized. In 1942 it started refining oils which became the base for the current oil

factory. In 1948 “Bulgarian sugar” –Dolna Mitropoliya became the chief investor in the first fodder factory in Bulgaria.

**THE** oldest verbal confirmation about the existence of a school set up in people’s homes, where five to six girls used learn how to read church books, to write and to do simple math dates from the period of 1865-1866. After the Liberation of Bulgaria, Penyo Savov organized a school situated in his father’s home, where he taught kids from the village. The first official school building was built in 1885. The first grammar-school opened doors in 1921, and on March 29th 1968 was the groundbreaking ceremony of their new building. In 1989 the school became a high school. In 1995 a tourism school was opened.

**ON** March 22nd 1928 a group of teachers and teenagers “lighted the first spark” for the creation of a National Community Centre. In its early days, the community centre was situated in one of the school’s rooms. The newly-created library had only 48 books and was situated in Damyan Lazarov’s home. The National Community Centre “Prosveta” had its new building built in 1985.

**THE** Aviation Academy “Georgi Benkovski” is also located in Dolna Mitropoliya. It is directly linked to the proud traditions of the Bulgarian school of aviators. After the Second World War, by decree of the Commander of the National Air Forces, the academy was set up near the airport of “Vrazhdebna”, which moved to the airport in Dolna Mitropoliya in 1948. In 1959 the academy was reorganized into a military university. The first aviators with a university degree were the class of 1964. The first Bulgarian astronaut was part of this class – Georgi Ivanov. From its creation in 1945 up to the present moment, the academy has always trained aviators for our military air force and for Bulgaria Air. From 1995 onwards, women were again allowed to apply.

**FROM** 1952 onwards, Dolna Mitropoliya’s youngest citizens were also being taken care of. On June 1st 1988, the newest building for the “Zdravets” nursery opened its doors - beautiful, comfortable and spacious. All of this entailed Dolna Mitropoliya’s regional position as a prosperous village, and in 1977 it became a town. In 1979 the town became the center for a group of 10 villages, and in 1987 it was reorganized into a municipality with 16 villages. In the center of the city one can find the local orthodox church “St Dimitar” – with its well-kept iconostasis and murals.

**IN** Dolna Mitropoliya there is a hall of an average size. It is that hall that the National Community Centre uses most frequently to organize concerts and plays. A Christmas gala is held every year, where the city’s young people show their talents. Most often the gala features folk dancing, recitals and music. On Ivanovden each year, a kukeri gathering is held at the centre of the town. Every year on April 1st the town celebrates the Day of the Henpecked son-in-law.

**MOTORSPORT** events are also often organized in Dolna Mitropoliya, due to it having one of the best speedways in Europe. The town has an Aeronautics Museum, which is situated within the Aviation Academy “Georgi Benkovski”. Currently the town has a population of 3760.

**HOW** will my town develop within the next 30 years?

**I** think that Dolna Mitropoliya’s future holds these events:

1. **DUE** to its proximity (being only 10 km away from Plevna) to the centre of the municipality, the population will remain relatively unchanged. More people will prefer to

commute daily to the bigger city, while enjoying their big “country” houses.

2. **THE** Aviation Academy “Georgi Benkovski” will regain its educational significance, due to some expectations for an increased need for military and civil aviators. As a consequence this will create new job opening within the aviation academy’s service sector.

3. **THANKS** to serious investors (both Bulgarian and foreign), the sugar and fodder factories will open new facilities, and thus new job openings will be available. These job openings will not only be filled by the citizens from Dolna Mitropoliya, but also by people from the whole region, which currently has a high level of unemployment.

4. **AS** a result of the future high levels of employment, there will also be a higher birth rate. This means, that the school system within the city will be kept as is. It could be assumed that Dolna Mitropoliya will become an educational center for kids from all over the region, as many of the smaller villages are slowly “dying”.

5. **AS** a result of the economic boost mentioned in point 3, the possibility to fund more cultural events within my home town will emerge.

**IN** conclusion I would like to say, that unlike the negativity that has overcome my fellow citizens, I believe in the future prosperity of Dolna Mitropoliya!

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