

## TARGOVISHTE'S CULTURAL PERSPECTIVES IN THE FUTURE /RESEARCH ESSAY/

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**ABSTRACT:** THE RICH HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF TARGOVISHTE, COMBINED WITH THE EXCEPTIONAL NATURE AND INDUSTRIOUS POPULATION, MAKE IT AN ATTRACTIVE CENTER IN NORTH-EAST BULGARIA. THIS DETERMINES THE PRESENT AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF ITS CULTURAL LIFE. ACCORDING TO THE AUTHORS OF THE ESSAY, CREATED IN THE PRESENT CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS AND MASS MEDIA WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY A HUGE ROLE IN THE SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT OF ITS CITIZENS.

**KEY WORDS:** MEDIA, EDUCATION, DRAMA THEATRE, PUPPET THEATRE, LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY CENTERS, FINE ARTS, NATIONAL DANCES, CHEERLEADERS AND CHEERLEADING TEAMS, SPORTS AND TOURISM, REGULAR EVENTS

**TARGOVISHTE** is a regional town in North-Eastern Bulgaria. Up to 2011 its population was 37 611 inhabitants. Relating the Antiquity and Ancient Times of Targovishte to the present, we can outline some of the tendencies for its development in the future. Archeological evidence proved there was human life in this area during the Copper-Stone Age (Chalcolithic period) – 5<sup>th</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> c. B.C. The remains of Thracian settlements (5<sup>th</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> cen. BC), a Roman settlement (2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> cen. AD), a settlement and a fortress from the early Byzantine period (5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> cen. AD) were found in the vicinity of the town. Remains of a settlement founded during the First Bulgarian Kingdom (the fortress *Sborishte*), a settlement and a fortress founded during the Second Bulgarian Kingdom were also found. The old name of the town EskiDzhumayawas mentioned for the first time in 1573 in the tax register of the Ottoman Empire. The town became an administrative center in 1658.

**THE** contact with the European culture and the thirst for knowledge paved the way for active educational work. Even as early as the 18<sup>th</sup> century a monastery school was founded there. In 1846 this school was transformed into a secular one. The great writer of the Bulgarian Revival Petko R. Slaveykov was a teacher there. During that period a Christian church and a community center were constructed. The fame of Targovishte for fairs and crafts was preserved during the Revival period. Various crafts were developed – homespun tailoring, making rugs out of goat's hide, woolen braiding, shoe-making, etc. The town had its own significance in the National Movement for Liberation as well.

**THE** liberation of Ottoman domination, laid a new beginning for the town. When the Russian army advanced on 27<sup>th</sup> January 1878, the Turks who had gathered from the town and nearby villages started moving together with the regular Ottoman army to Shumen. Some of the Turks who had arrived from the villages stayed in the town and set the town on fire. However, on 29<sup>th</sup> January 1878, the town was liberated by the advancing Russian army.

**SINCE** that moment the town's cultural life has been flourishing. It is expected that it will develop actively in the future, for the population of the town is relatively stable – the factors playing role in the future perspectives are: media, education, culture and entertainment, library and community centers, fine arts, national dances, cheerleaders and cheerleading teams, sports and tourism and regular events.

### **MEDIA**

TV NRG Vision (Energy Vision), the local regional radio New Radio Targovishte will develop further. The local newspapers – Targovishte news and Flag, are nearly getting closed down, therefore, it is expected that the information site targovishtebg.com will expand.

### **1. EDUCATION**

**UP** to now, there are 9 high schools and 4 primary schools in the town:

**HIGH** schools: "Cyril and Methodius and their five disciples", "Professor Nikola Marinov", "John Atanasov", "Bishop Andrey", "AlekoKonstantinov", Vocational Technical Highschool "Tsar Simeon the Great", Vocational High school of Electrotechnics and Construction, Vocational High School of Agriculture, Sports School "Nikola Simeonov". Based on the current birth-rate, the abovementioned schools will continue functioning. However, it is possible that they may change their departments depending on the development of science and technologies.

**THE** Primary schools "HristoBotev", "Nikola Y. Vaptsarov", "Petko R. Slaveykov", "Ivan Vazov" will hand down their educational traditions to the future generations.

### **2. CULTURE AND ENTERTAINMENT**

#### **DRAMA THEATRE**

**THE** Drama Theatre of Targovishte is a state theatre, founded in 1969. The theatre produces its own plays and puts on stage plays by actor groups staying in town. The theatre has a hall of its own with 500 seats and hosts to two festivals: International Festival of Performances for Children "The Magic Curtain" which takes place annually during the first week of May, and "Days of the Big Theatre in the Small Town" which takes place in June. This will be a stable cultural structure in the future as well because of the profound interest of the citizens towards it.

#### **PUPPET THEATRE**

**THE PUPPET THEATRE – TARGOVISHTE** was established by a group of enthusiasts in January 1961 as a part of an amateur group in Community Center "Progress". On 1<sup>st</sup> October 1975 it became autonomous State Puppet Theatre based on the Order № 49/13.02.1971. The first performance was on 15<sup>th</sup> February 1961 – the play "The Magical Galosh". For 47 years more than 160 plays have been completed and put on stage in front of 2 300 000 spectators in Targovishte and in more than 100 towns and villages in the country and abroad. There are works by classical and modern authors, plays from the Bulgarian and world puppet dramaturgy, as well as national folklore tales in the repertoire of the theatre. The genre diversity is vast, as well as the range of the used forms and means of expression. The technics for managing the puppets are also diverse: from pure puppet theatre behind a

screen, puppet pantomime with improvised dolls, musical, live performances with dolls in band-stand variety play up to purely dramatic ones. The titles of the plays are interpreted in a modern and contemporary way; the decisions concerning the stage plot and performance are varied and deeply influential. All this defines the original dynamic style of the performances. Because of the artistic flexibility of the puppet theatre, it will survive in the next 30 years but with a modern stage-property and technics.

### 3. LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY CENTERS

THE local regional library "Petar Stoyanov" is situated in the town and it has a modern base, 6 reading-rooms and offers about 330 volumes of literature. It functions as a modern civil center and as an information center with its own computer network. We believe that the increasing interest in reading books will get the upper hand over technologies in Targovishte due to the continued interest of the citizens of the town to the artistic, written words.

### 4. FINE ARTS

THERE is a School of Fine Arts, whose major purpose is the education of children from the age of 5 to 18 in the field of fine arts. Its students have won prizes from international competitions in Japan, Italy, Poland, The Macedonian Republic, The Czech Republic, Germany, etc. This tradition will be carried on in the future.

### 5. NATIONAL DANCES

THE Professional Ensemble "Misia" (with professional dancers and an orchestra), a School Rozhdestvo Hristovo ("The birth of Jesus Christ") (with beginner and advanced groups of children and adults), youth ensemble of United Children Complex (comprised mainly of students up to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade) and the children ensemble Sharenoger danche("Multicoloured Necklace") also function in the town. The devotion of the population to the dance art will be reflected in the future.

### 6. CHEERLEADERS AND CHEERLEADING TEAMS

SOME schools have their own cheerleading teams, in which children of the corresponding school partake in the form of an elective course. Targovishte has a private cheerleading team –Targovishte cheerleaders "Flash" which mostly consists of students up to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Perhaps this kind of culture will not be much popular in the next thirty years. This type of art is not typical for the local cultural traditions and probably it will gradually vanish as some transitional fashion.

### 7. SPORTS AND TOURISM

THE town football teams are Svetkavitsa ('Lightning') and Vabel. Svetkavitsa plays in B group. Apart from football teams, there are a sport club in rifle practice *Lightning*, a karate club *Tangra*, sport dances – club *Kiarra*, box and kickbox club *Svetkavitsa* and many other kinds of sports like wrestling, volleyball, gymnastics, MMA (freestyle wrestling). There are also karate club *kyokushinkai Oyama*, a club in sport orientation *Variant 5* and a motor club *Extreme Riders*. In our point of view, half of the abovementioned clubs will disappear gradually because more and more people stay long in front of the computers and they become submerged into a virtual world.

TOURIST association "Nikola Simov" was founded on 30<sup>th</sup> November 1903. Today it flourishes an active work. Maybe it will continue existing in the next 30 years, but it will have fundamental improvements in the equipment.

### 8. REGULAR EVENTS

SUCH events will last forever! Examples of these are the holidays:

- 29<sup>th</sup> January – liberation of the town from Ottoman domination
- In the middle of May a traditional fair takes place. It is known as the Spring fair and an Exhibition of industrial goods. In 2010 the fair continued from 10<sup>th</sup> May until 16<sup>th</sup> May.

It is likely that the development of our society may add some more holidays to these, while others will cultivate the culture of the social society.

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SOCIOBRAINS