

# **MUSEUM AND NATION: REPRESENTATION OF NATIONAL IDENTITY IN THE BULGARIAN HISTORICAL MUSEUMS**

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## **Abstract**

The text examines the relationship between the establishment and development of the historical museum as an institution on the one hand, and the nation – the policies of its construction within the museum through historically changing discourses and representations, on the other hand. It traces briefly the main trends in the representation of the national identity and social construction of the past during the modern times in Europe. The paper follows the development of the museums in Bulgaria by the end of the XIX century within the context of the European museum representations of the nation. It analyzes the different approaches to the representation of national identity in Bulgarian museums in the XX century – the establishment and strengthening of the national narrative in museum institutions in the first half of the XX century, the specific interpretation of the nation during the communist period after the Second World War, and the new forms and meanings of the nation and national identity after the political changes of 1989.