



## Bulgaria in British Foreign Policy, 1943–1949

*Marietta Stankova*

**Pub Date:** July 2014

**Binding:** Hardback

**Price:** £60 / \$99

**ISBN:** 9781783082322

**Extent:** 240 pages

**Size:** 229 x 152mm / 9 x 6

**Illustrations:** 2+ images

**Category:** HISTORY / Europe / Former Soviet Republics

**BISAC code:** HIS012000

**BIC code:** HBJD

**Rights Held:** World

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### Description

**A deeper and more nuanced understanding of the origins of the Cold War and British involvement in Bulgaria and the Balkans.**

Located at the centre of the Balkan Peninsula, Bulgaria serves as a natural stepping stone to the Straits, the Eastern Mediterranean and the Middle East. Its geo-strategic position has frequently attracted foreign powers – including Great Britain and the Soviet Union – with an array of regional and global interests.

A succession of Great Power influences in the Balkans both shaped Bulgaria's international place and marked its domestic policy. This book explores Britain's involvement in Bulgaria between 1943 and 1949, providing a new understanding of the origins of the Cold War in the region.

Divided into three parts, the book examines the priorities of Britain during and after World War II, investigates the practical integration of strategic and ideological objectives in British foreign policy, and maps Britain's diminishing interest in the country alongside the parallel consolidation of communist power and the increasing Soviet presence.

Using recently released sources from the Bulgarian and Soviet communist parties and foreign ministries, the author revisits the question of British attitudes towards Eastern Europe. This book offers a new approach to understanding the origins of the Cold War in Bulgaria and bridges significant gaps in the treatment of the country in English-language literature.

**Readership:** This book will be of interest to those studying postwar and Cold War history, foreign power policies in the Balkans and British foreign policy in East and Southeast Europe.

### Contents

Acknowledgments; List of Abbreviations; Introduction; PART I: 'What Will be the Place of Bulgaria at the Judgement Seat?'; Chapter 1: Bulgaria in British Postwar Planning; Chapter 2: Getting Bulgaria Out of the War; PART II: 'Britain Has to Be a Little More than a Spectator'; Chapter 3: The Principles of British Postwar Policy Towards Bulgaria; Chapter 4: Observing the Establishment of Communist Rule in Bulgaria; Chapter 5: Recognizing the Bulgarian Communist Regime; PART III: 'We Are Supporting Certain Principles'; Chapter 6: British Acceptance of Communist Rule in Bulgaria; Conclusion; Bibliography

### About the Author

**Marietta Stankova** is a historian of the Cold War and communism, with a particular interest in the Balkan region. She studied history at Sofia University before receiving her MA in modern European history at the Central European University in Budapest. She went on to obtain a PhD in international history at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), where she subsequently taught and was associated with the LSE IDEAS Balkan International Affairs Programme. Stankova's publications include *Georgi Dimitrov: A Biography* and other works focused on the emergence of communism in Bulgaria and the Cold War in the Balkans.

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