

**“Bulgarian by Profession. Bulgarian by Descent”  
(Notes on Identity)**

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(Summary)

The aim of the article is to provide a possible interpretation of identity in one of the contested border regions on the Balkans well known for the competing politics and interests by the two bordering countries – Bulgaria and Serbia, for the past century. This region is known as “Western Outlands” in the social and political life.

The communal memory of the Bulgarian minority in Bosilegrad, Serbia, leads the narration through different historical periods and their respective politics to uncover an identity which has become a survival strategy at the intricate periods. This will reveal a complex picture of the multiple identity levels where the individual and social identity are tightly related and are further shaped by the existing number of internal and external “others”.

**Keywords:** border; identity; strategy; minority; Bosilegrad

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