The Bulgarian, the French and the Morocco Berber Customary Law Systems of Inheritance – Essay of Comparison

Kamen Dontchev (Summary)

The article is an attempt to compare the customary law system of inheritance in the Bulgarian rural traditional society with that of France. A parallel is made with the customary law system of the Berbers in Morocco as well. The significant difference between the Bulgarian and the French customary law systems of inheritance is that the first one is uniform as a whole, while in the second case is characterized by the existence of different types of customary law systems of inheritance in various regions of the country.

Another important benchmark for the comparative analysis is the fact that according to the Bulgarian customary law system of inheritance only the sons have the right to inherit the estate of the deceased. It is pointed out that this peculiarity of the system of inheritance is also characteristic of some areas in France and the reasons for this are discussed. The principle of inheritance in question is also characteristic of the customary law of the Moroccan Berbers – local, pre-Arabic population of Morocco. In support of this, some information is given about their customary law of inheritance.

Keywords: customary law; customary law system of inheritancen; Northwestern Bulgaria; Rhodope Mountains; Berbers; Morocco

Kamen Dontchev Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Studies with Ethnographic Museum – BAS 6A Moskovska Str. 1000 Sofia, BULGARIA kamen.dontchev@iefem.bas.bg