

**Football, Politics and Society under Socialism:
History of Three Bulgarian Towns**

Teodor Borisov

<http://doi.org/10.7546/BF.2.2025.07>

(Summary)

The article shows the social significance of football during the period of the People's Republic of Bulgaria through the example of three cities – Sliven, Plevn and Vratsa. The development of the most popular sport in the respective settlements until the Second World War, the transformations that occurred after 9 September 1944 and the adaptation to the new political and social system are examined. The issues of financing football clubs, their toleration by physical education societies and the resonance that their games have among the local community are touched upon. At the same time, it is shown that sports organizations are a successful way of integrating representatives of various minority communities, who through their good performances enjoy respect among their fellow citizens.

Keywords: football; politics; society; socialism; identity

Teodor Borisov
tborisov89@gmail.com