

**Localization of the Balkan Homeland of the *Tukantsi* Bulgarians  
from Bessarabia and Tavria according to Written Sources  
and Sources from the Folklore**

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(Summary)

The problem of the origin of *tukantsi*, the first Bulgarian settlers in Budjak remains already for a long time a controversial question. The article, which is the result of a complex research of the authors, demonstrates that the inhabitants of the valleys between Stara planina and Sredna Gora called Karadza Dag (Sarnena Sredna Gora) are the earliest Bulgarian immigrants in Southern Bessarabia in modern times. The article is based on different sources: acts and statistics from the archival collections of modern Ukraine and Moldova and materials from field studies accomplished by the authors in the period between 2012 and 2014, in Budjak and Sredna gora (photo documents, oral and written narratives). The updated statistical documents, together with the narratives, the folklore, graphic and other types of sources not only allow to confirm the hypothesis of the South Bulgarian origin of the *tukantsi* from the region of Karadza Dag, but also reflect the direct continuity, the direct genetic link between Budjak and the Balkans during the nineteenth century.

**Keywords:** *tukantsi*, Sarnena Sredna Gora, Budjak, ethnography, folklore

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