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**DIMITROVGRAD FROM 1878 TO 1881. ADMINISTRATIVE-TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION AND THE FIRST CENSUSES OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF SERBIA AND THE PRINCIPALITY OF BULGARIA**

**Summary:** Today's territory of the municipality of Dimitrovgrad was liberated by the Serbian army in the Second Serbian-Turkish War (1877–1878). The Serbian administration then connected the city and its surroundings with the newly created Pirot district, until the final decision of the Berlin Congress, withdrawal of the Serbian army and administration after determining the border line between the two principalities. The paper will present the procedure of administrative territorial annexation of Dimitrovgrad to the Principality of Serbia, and then to the Principality of Bulgaria. The main focus will be on the first census of the region, conducted by the Serbian state in the area under its administration after the liberation. A more complete census of Dimitrovgrad and its surroundings was made by the Principality of Bulgaria at the end of 1880.

**Keywords:** Dimitrovgrad, census, Principality of Serbia, Principality of Bulgaria, Pirot district, district Trn

Примљено: 15. 3. 2022.

Прихваћено: 14. 7. 2022.