

**NEWS FROM BULGARIA: Christopher Adair-Toteff,
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In contrast to the enthusiastic reception of Kant and to Hegel, scholars in Bulgaria have traditionally not been interested in the philosophy of Leibniz. That is not to say that there has been no interest, for in 1898 the *Monadology* was translated into Bulgarian along with an introduction and notes. In 1920, I. A. Georgov published a book simply titled *Leibniz* that is an exposition of his philosophy. Recently there has been growing interest in Leibnizian thinking. Another book, by Y. Pogrebsky, was published in 1973 and a translation of the *New Essays on Human Understanding* appeared the following year.

At Sofia University Leibniz is now mandatory reading for students who are either majors or minors in philosophy. At the doctoral level there are questions on Leibniz for the history of philosophy section of the comprehensive examination.

Students at the American University in Bulgaria may serve as an indication of the growing regard for Leibniz. Some students express a dislike of his philosophy because they think that there is an excessive mathematical influence in it; however, many students are attracted by that very concern. Most students readily grasp Leibniz' various principles, and while they seem eager to learn all of them, they have a special regard for the Principle of Simplicity. This may be explained in part by the economic situation here. Although it is improving, the economy is still poor by western standards. Students have learned to be extremely concerned about deriving the greatest results using the simplest of means. They also favor the Principle of Perfection, partially because of their keen sense of striving and competing, but more importantly, because of the powerful draw of the ideal. Students often scoff at the practical claim that this is the "best of all possible worlds," yet they have an intuitive appreciation of the metaphysical and theological justifications that Leibniz offers. As economic conditions improve and more students have access to Leibniz' writings, I believe it is safe to say that Leibniz' reception in Bulgaria will strengthen considerably.