

Chapter 1 : Lyudmila Zhivkova - Wikidata

*Lyudmila Zhivkova's heritage remains disputed in Bulgaria. Some claim that she was the harbinger of alternative ideas, freedom and spirituality, not least through being a woman on Bulgaria's heavily male-dominated public scene.*

She then became assistant president of the Committee for Art and Culture , its first vice president and its president with the rank of a minister between and her death in Zhivkova was a deputy in the 7th and 8th National Assemblies of Bulgaria. Moreover, as daughter of the head of Party and state, Zhivkova was often seen as "heir apparent" and enjoyed powers beyond her official purview. She also helped establish the Years of Bulgaria Foundation, a quasi-independent entity to endow the arts. Alongside bringing foreign culture to Bulgaria, Zhivkova did much to permit and encourage Bulgarian artists to travel abroad for study and practice. She also organised the Thracian Gold Treasures from Bulgaria travelling exhibition which visited over 25 world cities, bringing much acclaim. Elena Ceausescu si Ludmila Jivkova. During the last decade of her life, Zhivkova developed intense interests in Eastern culture , New Age matters, religious mysticism , and the occult. In this connection she developed a very close relationship with "the Petrich Oracle" Vanga , a famous village clairvoyant , and with thriller-writer Bogomil Raynov, son of a renowned Bulgarian theosophist and writer Nikolay Raynov. Later, Zhivkova allegedly developed additional interests in Native American and particularly native Mexican beliefs and mysticism. Besides their artistic work as painters, the Roerichs were founders and proponents of Agni Yoga , an idiosyncratic spiritual teaching based on Indian mysticism, so celebrating them so intensively appeared a somewhat eccentric gesture for a Marxist government admittedly, at the time the Roerichs were respected as artists, patriots and explorers in the USSR as well [1]. A post stamp with a portrait of Nicholas Roerich by his son Svetoslav was issued in that year. Death Zhivkova died at the age of 38 from a brain tumor. Rumors, usually unsubstantiated or flimsy, continue to circulate regarding other contributing reasons. Zhivkova was accorded a very large public funeral attended by huge crowds. Aftermath Public places and edifices were named after Lyudmila Zhivkova, yet her ideas on rounded personalities and beauty in public life were removed from public circulation. Some of those were accused of misappropriating public funds intended for the arts and the Gallery of World Art, with the Years of Bulgaria Foundation implicated in serious corruption. Others see her as the archetypal dissolute, spoilt, confused, imperious, and eternally unfulfilled child of the "Red Bourgeoisie. Puritanical and Spartan, commanding and dogmatic, rebellious, eccentric, whimsical, and over-naive or insufficiently vigilant, Zhivkova appears to have attracted not only disaffected Bohemians and awkward mystics, but also all too many who were canny, corrupt and mercantile. After being adopted by her grandfather, Zheni became a fashion designer and a Coalition for Bulgaria National Assembly deputy. In the s, Todor was tried on rape charges. Trivia A boulevard in the capital was named after her Boulevard Ludmila Zhivkova , but later renamed after

**Chapter 2 : Category:Lyudmila Zhivkova - Wikimedia Commons**

*Zhivkova, Lyudmila () Bulgarian political leader, one of the few women in Eastern Europe to achieve significant political influence during the Communist era, who directed virtually all aspects of cultural and educational affairs in Bulgaria in the years before her early death.*

Women in World History: Zhivkova, Lyudmila – Bulgarian political leader, one of the few women in Eastern Europe to achieve significant political influence during the Communist era, who directed virtually all aspects of cultural and educational affairs in Bulgaria in the years before her early death. Lyudmila or Ludmilla Zhivkova; Lyudmila Zhirkova. Zheni; Todor; Lyudmila Zhivkova. Born in in a wartime Bulgaria allied to Nazi Germany, when her father was a leader of the underground Bulgarian Communist Party BCP , she grew up in the capital city of Sofia, at the center of power. By , Todor Zhivkov was a member of the ruling Politburo, and in his power became virtually absolute when he became first secretary of the BCP Central Committee. Bulgaria was closely tied to the Soviet Union for ideological and historical reasons in the 19th century, Tsarist Russia had supported the Bulgarian struggle against its Ottoman Turkish occupiers , and its internal politics often reflected major transformations in the USSR. Both Khrushchev and Zhivkov championed reforms, initiating a "thaw" in political and cultural life. For Lyudmila, growing up in the post-Stalinist world of Eastern Europe represented a challenge she felt certain she could master. Zhivkov was proud of the fact that his daughter and son were unlike some of the children of other BCP leaders, who had become "princes and princesses" with insatiable tastes. After completing her studies in history and philosophy at the University of Sofia, Zhivkova went on to study art history in Moscow, then enrolled at Oxford for a research project on British policy in the Balkans in the pre- World War II era. At this time, the only other woman better known to Bulgarians than the youthful Lyudmila was the veteran Communist Tsola Dragoicheva. Displaying obvious talent and ambition, Zhivkova quickly expanded her powers by reorganizing the committee under her leadership. Only three years later, in July , she became a full member of the ruling BCP Politburo, taking charge of a newly formed Politburo commission on culture, education and science. Curious about the world, she accompanied her father on state visits to Italy, Japan, India, Iran, and Turkey, and was also one of the few Bulgarian citizens let alone women to receive permission to travel on her own in that period. She surrounded herself with a circle of talented artists and writers, who were rewarded psychologically and materially. She usually ignored the political views of gifted artists; as far as she was concerned, their artistic creativity was of much greater value to the nation than empty professions of Marxist political orthodoxy. Although she never openly criticized Marxist ideology, Zhivkova was much more influenced by mysticism and Eastern religions than the doctrines of dialectical materialism. Her sophisticated awareness of the larger world that existed beyond the borders of Bulgaria, the Balkans, and even the Soviet bloc made her responsive to the cultural forces that were emerging and evolving on a global scale. Among her policy goals was to stress the development of strong relationships between Bulgaria and major Third World countries such as India and Mexico. Some observers interpreted this policy as representing a significant divergence from the "fraternal" direction that had up to that time always been given by the Soviet Union. Convinced that even Bulgarian peasants would benefit from the arts, she established local councils in every town and village. Older hardline elements within the BCP regarded her ideas of the cultural significance of "beauty, light, and harmony" as heretical and exotic, but did not dare challenge her. At the same time, with her control over a generous budget, she was able to make a significant group of officials loyal to her and her alone. Intellectuals who had doubts about her notions of a national program of "aesthetic education," which was defined as the "realization of the vital necessity to live according to the supreme laws of truth and beauty," kept their doubts to themselves. Another weapon in her arsenal was her husband. Ivan Slavkov held the post of director-general of Bulgarian State Television. By , a number of political observers began to suggest that Zhivkova was being groomed by her father as his eventual successor. Had she lived and had her father retired before his overthrow from power in , it is conceivable that she might have become the first woman head of state in the Soviet bloc. During the last years of her short life, she presided over a number of

successful art exhibitions in Sofia, including one devoted to the work of Leonardo da Vinci criticized by Moscow as tilting Bulgaria along a path potentially too pro-Western , and another, which received international praise, on "Thracian Art on Bulgarian Soil. At the time, some Kremlinologists went so far as to suggest that, because of her political style, she had been murdered by the KGB. There is no evidence for this. Scholars now conclude that her death was brought on by a near-fatal automobile accident she had been in five years earlier, resulting in a brain injury that never completely healed. Her father and all Bulgaria mourned the loss of a remarkable woman. Inside, a great mural dedicated to the "awakeners" of the Bulgarian nation included a portrait depicting Lyudmila Zhivkova. Immediately after the collapse of the Communist regime in November , Bulgarians began to reevaluate the Zhivkov legacy, both that of father and daughter. In an exhibition of formerly banned caricatures entitled "Documents of Authoritarianism," the reputations of Todor Zhivkov and Lyudmila Zhivkova suffered from the harsh criticism of intellectuals and artists who now began to communicate with each other in a new cultural environment, one grounded in intellectual freedom. She remains one of the most fascinating personalities to emerge during the final decades of Communist rule in Eastern Europe. To commemorate the first anniversary of her death in July , the Bulgarian post office issued two postage stamps and one souvenir sheet in honor of Lyudmila Zhivkova. *A Torch Burns Not for Itself*. Hoover Institution Press, January 19, , p. *January 22*, , p. *July 23*, , p. *The Annual Obituary July 22*, , p. *Politics, Economics and Society. Think of Me as Fire: A Book About Lyudmila Zhivkova*. Rock Around the Bloc: Oxford University Press, *Statesman and Builder of New Bulgaria*.

*Lyudmila Todorova Zhivkova ( - ) was the daughter of Bulgarian Communist leader Todor Zhivkov. Primarily known for her interest in preserving and promoting Bulgarian arts and culture on the international stage, Zhivkova was also a controversial figure within the former Soviet Bloc because.*

She then became assistant president of the Committee for Art and Culture , its first vice president and its president with the rank of a minister between and her death in Zhivkova was a deputy in the 7th and 8th National Assemblies of Bulgaria. Moreover, as daughter of the head of Party and state, Zhivkova was often seen as "heir apparent" and enjoyed powers beyond her official purview. She also helped establish the Years of Bulgaria Foundation, a quasi-independent entity to endow the arts. Alongside bringing foreign culture to Bulgaria, Zhivkova did much to permit and encourage Bulgarian artists to travel abroad for study and practice. She also organised the Thracian Gold Treasures from Bulgaria travelling exhibition which visited over 25 world cities, bringing much acclaim. Private persona During the last decade of her life, Zhivkova developed overwhelming interests in Eastern culture , New Age matters, religious mysticism, and the occult. As part of this, she developed a very close relationship with "the Petrich Oracle" Vanga , a famous village clairvoyant , and with thriller writer Bogomil Raynov, son of a renowned Bulgarian theosophist and writer Nikolay Raynov. Later, Zhivkova was said to have developed additional interests in Native American and particularly native Mexican beliefs and mysticism. It was rumoured that she had renounced Marxism and Communist atheism: Besides their artistic work as painters, the Roerichs were founders and proponents of Agni Yoga , an idiosyncratic spiritual teaching based on Indian mysticism, so celebrating them so intensively appeared a somewhat eccentric gesture for a Marxist government admittedly, at the time the Roerichs were respected as artists, patriots and explorers in the USSR as well [1]. A post stamp with a portrait of Nicholas Roerich by his son Svetoslav was issued in that year. Her health had suffered after a serious car accident in , fatigue occasioned by extensive international travel, two unhappy marriages, struggles against Bulgarian bureaucrats and Party hardliners, and debilitating and curious dietary and lifestyle practices. She had also developed very powerful, extremely dangerous and determined enemies in the face of pro-Soviet Bulgarian Communist hardliners and the USSR itself. The official story is that she died of natural causes while taking a bath at her home in the Boyana government compound. Rumours claim that she took an overdose of medicines or narcotic drugs, was murdered by Bulgarian or even Soviet secret service agents, or was intentionally left to die of an otherwise trivial and treatable condition it is claimed that the ambulance crew taking her to hospital had spent over an hour changing a tyre at the roadside. According to another rumour borne out by her haggard appearance in her final months, she had contracted an incurable disease which she had insisted on treating by alternative means. While she is said to have dimly foreseen her demise and asked her friends to "think of me as fire," her confidante Vanga is on the record as having been surprised by it. Zhivkova was accorded a very large public funeral attended by huge crowds. Aftermath Public places and edifices were named after Lyudmila Zhivkova, yet her ideas on rounded personalities and beauty in public life were removed from public circulation. Todor Zhivkov soon removed most of her proteges from their influential positions. Some of those were accused of misappropriating public funds intended for the arts and the Gallery of World Art, with the Years of Bulgaria Foundation implicated in serious corruption. Others see her as the archetypal dissolute, spoilt, confused, imperious, and eternally unfulfilled child of the "Red Bourgeoisie. Puritanical and Spartan, commanding and dogmatic, rebellious, eccentric, whimsical, and over-naive or insufficiently vigilant, Zhivkova appears to have attracted not only disaffected Bohemians and awkward mystics, but also all too many who were canny, corrupt and mercantile. After being adopted by her grandfather, Zheni became a fashion designer and a Coalition for Bulgaria National Assembly deputy. In the s, Todor was tried on rape charges. Trivia A Boulevard in the capital was named after her Boulevard Ludmila Zhivkova , but later renamed after

**Chapter 4 : Todor Zhivkov - Wikipedia**

*July 22, , Page The New York Times Archives. Lyudmila Zhivkova, one of Bulgaria's most powerful political figures, has died, the Government press agency B.T.A. reported today.*

The Indian collection was once a priority of the Bulgarian government and a showcase of its aspirations to cosmopolitan modernity. In the 1950s and 1960s, the communist regime led by Todor Zhivkov covertly spent vast sums to become a European centre for the study of Indian culture. Troupes of Indian dancers toured the country and Indian films appeared on Bulgarian television. The work of Indian authors such as Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay and Thakazhi Sivasankara Pillai, whose descriptions of an oppressed peasantry appealed to Marxist sensibilities, appeared in Bulgarian translation. Long before the Zhivkov regime turned to India in the 1950s, Bulgarian intellectuals had cultivated their own fascination with the subcontinent. In the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, as Bulgaria was emerging from centuries of Ottoman rule and a new nationalist movement was searching for historical roots, certain Bulgarian intellectuals argued that the country had a long association with, or was descended from, ancient Indian civilisations. The nationalist activist Georgi Stoykov Rakovski, after whom a Delhi school is named, insisted that there were close links not only between the Bulgarian language and Sanskrit, but also that Bulgaria and India shared common religious practices, customs and mythology. More importantly, perhaps, Rakovski saw another parallel between India and Bulgaria: This lively cultural exchange was interrupted after the Second World War and the establishment of a communist government in Bulgaria. For many years, the new regime in Sofia—under the leadership of Zhivkov since 1954—sponsored a Stalinist model of culture, focussed on promoting socialist values and containing dissent. When her mother died in 1944, Lyudmila Zhivkova, then only 29 years old, assumed the role of first lady, accompanying her father on visits abroad. She had studied art and history in Oxford and Moscow, where she acquired a love of culture and a sense of herself as a historical figure in her own right. These included high-profile trips to India, where she met frequently with Indira Gandhi. In 1954, Zhivkova became head of the state commission for science, culture and art, with near total power to decide what was printed, broadcast and performed in Bulgaria. But she was also the leader of a peculiar form of dissent. While they did not openly disavow Marxism, they pursued new ideas that implicitly challenged the values of the regime. They were particularly interested in the cosmopolitan potential of art and spirituality—and India was a vital source of both. Her spirituality was barely distinguishable from her politics. When she visited Auroville in 1964 to celebrate her role on the committee, Zhivkova brought with her 1,000 roses. From an Indian perspective, the Bulgarian market was nothing spectacular. Trade with the Soviet Union was far larger and more important. Moscow supplied vital military hardware, while Bulgaria primarily offered fertiliser, chemical products and steel. For the Bulgarians, on the other hand, India was a crucial partner. Guides and curators were employed and they were much needed then, because around fourteen groups of tourists were visiting us every day. Like his father, the acclaimed Russian painter Nikolai Roerich, Svetoslav was active in the dialogue between European and Indian artistic traditions. Zhivkova made personal visits to Bangalore, where the couple lived, and received many works of art from them. These and other works were brought to the National Gallery of Foreign Art, established in 1954 and directed by Svetlin Rusev, another friend of Zhivkova and regular at her salon. He was buying these sculptures obsessively. The Indian miniatures represent a full range of periods and regional styles. Outside of Goa and Portugal, no other museum houses such an extensive collection of Goan Christian sculpture, particularly the wooden statues—some life-sized or larger—of Jesus and the saints. An economic downturn in the early 1970s resulted in slashed budgets and an end to the expensive festivals, foreign junkets and art-collecting of previous years. Instead of showcasing global art, the regime now focussed on assimilating or expelling minorities, a tactic that did little to shore up its crumbling popularity. In 1989, the regime collapsed, along with the other communist governments of Eastern Europe. The National Gallery of Foreign Art was starved of funds and much of its Indian artefacts were put in storage. The new museum is devoted to proving that Bulgaria is a European country, and its Indian collection fits uncomfortably with this mission. However, the collection itself, now displayed in well-lit rooms, stands as a monument to a lost era, when a small Balkan

country turned to India for cultural dialogue, spiritual insights and economic opportunities. Kristina Nikolovska is a historian of early-modern Southeast Europe. She currently works as a specialist in Church Slavonic manuscripts and early printed books at the National and University Library in Skopje, Macedonia.

*Lyudmila Todorova Zhivkova ( - ) was the daughter of Bulgarian Communist leader Todor Zhivkov. Primarily known for her interest in preserving and promoting Bulgarian arts and culture on the international stage, Zhivkova was also a controversial figure within the former Soviet Bloc because of her interests in esoteric Eastern religion and spirituality.*

The following year he obtained a post at the Darzhavna pechatnitsa, the official government publisher in Sofia. Although the BWP was banned along with all other political parties after the uprising of 19 May , it continued fielding a handful of non-party National Assembly Deputies and Zhivkov retained his posts at its Sofia structure. Under his rule, many fellow former combatants with Chavdar were to rise to positions of prominence in Bulgarian affairs. He is said to have coordinated partisan movements with those of pro-Soviet army units during the 9 September uprising. This section does not cite any sources. Please help improve this section by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. In the run-up to the treason trial against Traicho Kostov , Zhivkov criticised the Party and judicial authorities for what he claimed was their leniency with regard to Kostov. This placed him in the Stalinist hardline wing of the Party. In the years which followed, he was involved in countering countryside resistance to forced farm collectivisation in northwestern Bulgaria. Zhivkov took his place, but Chervenkov retained most of his powers as prime minister. Bulgarian opinion at the time interpreted this as a self-preservation move by Chervenkov, since Zhivkov was a less well known figure in the party. At that plenum, Zhivkov criticized Chervenkov as a disciple of Stalin, had him demoted from prime minister to a cabinet post, and promoted former Committee for State Security CSS head Anton Yugov to the post of prime minister. It was at this point that he became the de facto leader of Bulgaria. Subsequently, Zhivkov was associated with the "April Line," which had anti-Stalinist credentials. Their plan was to establish a pro-Chinese leadership in the country. The coup was exposed and between 28 March and 12 April and most of the plotters were arrested. Though the post of head of state was traditionally reserved for the leader of the surviving pro-Communist faction of the Bulgarian Agrarian National Union , the " Zhivkov Constitution " adopted by referendum in July promoted him to chairman of the new State Council. Zhivkov remained faithful to Moscow during his 35 years in power, but adopted a more liberal stance than his predecessor by allowing some market reforms such as allowing surplus agricultural goods to be sold for profit and ending persecution of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church. Economic[ edit ] In the mids, Soviet-style centralized planning produced economic indicators showing that Bulgarians were returning to their prewar lifestyle in some respects: According to the revised plan, industrial production would double and agricultural production would triple by ; a new agricultural collectivization and consolidation drive would achieve great economies of scale in that branch; investment in light industry would double, and foreign trade would expand. Amalgamation of collective farms cut their number by 70 percent, after which average farm acreage was second only to the Soviet Union among countries in Eastern Europe. Already by , however, Zhivkov had been forced to redefine the impossible goals of his theses. Harvests were disastrously poor in the early s; peasant unrest forced the government to raise food prices; and the urban dissatisfaction that resulted from higher prices compounded a crisis that broke in the summer of The completion of collectivization in had shifted , peasants, about 20 percent of the active labor force, into industrial jobs. Consequently, in the Fourth Five-Year Plan began an era of economic reform that brought a series of new approaches to the old goal of intensive growth. This approach intended to streamline economic units and make enterprise managers more responsible for performance. In June , about fifty industrial enterprises, mostly producers of textiles and other consumer goods, were placed under the new system. Many Western analysts attributed the Bulgarian retreat from the reforms of the s to tension caused by the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia in International events may well have played a role, but the timing of the retreat and the invasion suggest another component: The party leadership had never accepted the concept of free and flexible pricing for some products, which was an important Bulgarian departure from centralized planning in the s. Party meetings and the press criticized monopolistic abuses resulting from irrational decisions at the top and poor implementation of rational policies at the enterprise level. In Zhivkov harshly criticized all of

Bulgarian industry and agriculture in a major speech, but the reforms generated by his speech did nothing to improve the situation. This led to a Bulgarian version of the Soviet perestroika program. After a round of failed experimental measures, in January the Party issued Decree Number This decree established "firms" as the primary unit of economic management. However, statistics on growth for still indicated a 5. Consistent social policies led to an increase in life expectancy to One of the first mass HIV testing programs was initiated under Zhivkov, and as of October , some 2. During this same period, industrial wages increased by 4. According to official statistics, between and the number of televisions per households increased from 8 to ; radios increased from 59 to 95; refrigerators from 5 to 96; washing machines from 23 to 96; and automobiles from 2 to Available automobiles were primarily Soviet Fiats, some of which were manufactured in Bulgaria. Residential construction targets in the Five-Year Plans were regularly underfulfilled. Consequently, families often waited several years for apartments; in Sofia, where overcrowding was at its worst, the wait was as long as ten years. In Zhivkov introduced a sweeping educational reform, claiming that Marxist teachings on educating youth were still not being applied completely. The system united previously separate specialized middle schools in a single, twelve-grade program heavily emphasizing technical subjects. In a national program introduced computers to most of the ESPUs. In the s and s, Bulgaria improved its diplomatic relations with nations outside the Soviet sphere. Zhivkov was awarded the Hero of the Soviet Union in Thus, he claims in his memoirs that the USSR had become "a raw material appendage to Bulgaria," something obliquely confirmed by Gorbachev when he wrote in his memoirs that "Bulgaria was a country which had lived beyond its means for a long time. In and , the Zhivkov regime made requests " it is unclear how far these were in earnest " that Bulgaria be incorporated into the USSR, both times because the Bulgarian government, having engaged in bitter polemics with Yugoslavia over the Macedonia naming dispute , feared a Soviet-Yugoslav reconciliation at its own expense. In , following the decision of Patriarch Alexy I of Moscow to recognize the autonomy of the Macedonian Orthodox Church , the Bulgarian leaders openly declared that there was no "historic Macedonian nation. Through its Kintex arms export enterprise, Bulgaria also engaged in covert military support activities, many of which were subsequently disclosed. In the s, diplomatic crises with Sudan and Egypt were triggered by Bulgarian involvement in coup plots. Even back in the s, Zhivkov actively pursued better relations with the West, overcoming conservative opposition and the tentative, tourism-based approach to the West taken as early as the s. The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in late , which Bulgaria supported vigorously, renewed tension between Bulgaria and the West. Alleged Bulgarian implication in the attempted assassination of Pope John Paul II in exacerbated the problem and kept relations cool through the early s. Zhivkov made this stability a model for the overall Balkan cooperation that was a centerpiece of his foreign policy in the s. In early , Bulgaria signed a ten-year bilateral economic agreement with Greece. On the other hand, entry required intellectual compromise, and refusal to compromise led to dismissal from the union and loss of all privileges. The punishment of dissident writers sometimes went far beyond loss of privileges. Beginning in , he appealed loudly to the people to remember "our motherland Bulgaria". In Zhivkov had improved his domestic position by appointing his daughter Lyudmila Zhivkova as chair of the commission on science, culture, and art. She spent large sums of money in a highly visible campaign to support scholars, collect Bulgarian art, and sponsor cultural institutions. From to , Bulgaria won an unprecedented Olympic medals and numerous European and world competitions in sports as diverse as volleyball , rhythmic gymnastics and wrestling. The CSS was a feared tool of control, and overt opposition largely stayed underground until the late s. In , the Bulgarian dissident Georgi Markov was assassinated in London by an agent who stabbed him with an umbrella tip which implanted a very small ricin ball. Zhivkov was particularly intolerant of dissent within the Party. Soon afterward, when several intellectuals announced the formation of the "Club for the Support of Perestroika and Glasnost," he arrested the leaders and threw them out of the Party. October Learn how and when to remove this template message Zhivkov promoted his children, daughter Lyudmila Zhivkova and son Vladimir Zhivkov, in the BCP hierarchy. She died abruptly at the age of 38 in Apart from promoting his family, Zhivkov instituted a complex system of privileges which extended to former Resistance figures, Party members and prominent of the sciences, arts and manufacture. In the early s, he was instrumental in constructing a large set of housing, financial, educational, electoral and

other benefits to be granted to a large category of people called "Active Fighters against Capitalism and Fascism" who had ostensibly been members of the rather modest Bulgarian Wartime resistance and which was expanded to absurd proportions. Without necessarily receiving great remuneration pay differentials under Zhivkov were within the 5: The scope of these privileges broadened as they rose in the Party hierarchy. Eminent artists, scientists and "Heroes of Socialist Labour" mostly collective farmers and shop-floor workers received similar privileges. This hampered the prosecution in post-Zhivkov fraud and corruption trials, since no venality could be proved against those charged: Zhivkov reserved a special attention for his birthplace of Pravets. In the s this small village was declared "an Urban Community," becoming a town a decade later. The grateful citizens of Pravets responded by erecting a heroic statue to Zhivkov which he duly had taken down, ostensibly to prevent a personal cult growing around him. It was re-erected after his death. Throughout his tenure of power, Zhivkov surrounded himself with those who exhibited predanost loyalty, devotion, the desire to proffer all. In his reminiscences, Vladimir Kostov, a Bulgarian secret agent who defected to France in , recalls how the powerful minister of internal affairs would suffer nervous episodes before meeting Zhivkov lest his predanost should fail to come across sufficiently expressively. While the feared CSS secret police was commonly said to persecute those who told political jokes, Zhivkov himself was said to have found them amusing and "collected" an archive of them. A handful of satirist dissidents such as Radoy Ralin enjoyed some prominence, although Ralin was not favored by the authorities due to his sharp satire. By , resistance to this policy led to riots, which resulted in multiple deaths. In May , Zhivkov ordered an expulsion of Turks and Muslims to Turkey across the then Iron Curtain boundary between these two countries. This led to the largest ethnic cleansing in Europe during the Cold War , in which over , Turks and Muslims were targeted within three months. Bulgaria was the target of near-unanimous condemnation from the international community; even the Soviets protested. However, after the Turkish episode, he was determined to see Zhivkov gone. They began plotting to remove him, but had to move discreetly given the ubiquity of the CSS. He invited an independent group of Bulgarian environmental activists, Ecoglasnost, to participate. Ten days into the conference, several Ecoglasnost activists and supporters were brutally beaten up by CSS and militia officersâ€™on orders from Zhivkov. They then collared 36 other opposition activists, drove them to the countryside and forced them to walk back to Sofia. Amid near-unanimous international condemnation, Mladenov, Lukanov and Atansov decided that Zhivkov had to go. In a critical step, they convinced Defence Minister Dobri Dzhurov to support them. Dzhurov met Zhivkov in private and told him that he needed to resign, and there was enough support on the Politburo to vote him out. Zhivkov was taken by surprise and tried to marshal support, to no avail. Just before the Politburo met on 10 November, Dzhurov gave Zhivkov an ultimatumâ€™unless Zhivkov resigned, the Politburo would not only vote him out, but have him executed.

**Chapter 6 : Day 8: The National Palace for Culture - calendrierdelascience.com**

*Zhivkov promoted his children, daughter Lyudmila Zhivkova and son Vladimir Zhivkov, in the BCP hierarchy. Lyudmila became a Politburo member and earned the ire of the BCP and Bulgaria's benefactors in Moscow with her unorthodox artistic ideas and practice of Eastern religions.*

It was published in the book, called "Affair", written by Bogdana Lazarova and her colleague Nikolay Hristov. Old treasure-hunters tell that before November 10, , two big treasure-hunting clans existed among the high level circles in Bulgaria - the Troyan - Veliko Turnovo one with Milko Balev and the Minister of the Interior himself, Dimitar Stoyanov as bosses and the other - the Strandja-Sakar one with people from the "Cultural Heritage" circle, mainly Krustio Mutafchiev. The treasure-hunters say that the most gold was located in the Troyan area, where Milko Balev was from. Not so far away from Troyan is the town of Strazhiza - the native place of Dimitar Stoyanov. Both hid their interest in treasure-hunting by pretending to fight against it. The two clans, as it was to be expected, had been hostile towards each other. The old man died several weeks later. Mutafchiev further believed that the repressions against part of the "Cultural Heritage" team at the Foreign Ministry have also been connected to the appetites of the then Interior Minister Dimitar Stoyanov and his circle and of Milko Balev and to their hostility towards those who have been focusing on the treasures of the Strandja area. So, the clans have been competing -the one by looking for gold and the library of Tsar Ivan Shishman in Stara Planina and the other - for the treasure of Valchan Voivoda in the Strandja area known as Beklicktash. It is even more interesting that Zhivko Popov himself grew up with the treasure-hunting idea. The proposal is dated May In the document addressed to Lyudmila Zhivkova and to then Foreign Minister Petar Mladenov, the three insisted that the Office was placed directly under the State Committee for the Celebration of the Anniversary of the Creation of the Bulgarian State and that its Director was given the authority to control Bulgarian missions abroad. In addition to four regular employment positions, they requested a room at the Foreign Ministry building, an apartment in the very heart of Sofia on 5, "Bacho Kiro" street and a house also in downtown Sofia - on 4, "Angel Kunchev" street. Because of that, the Office has been constantly expanding and taking new spaces in downtown Sofia- on 10 "Rouski" boulevard, on 7 "Gavril Genov" currently "Hristo Belchev" street, 14 "Angel Kunchev" street. Several interrogations, referenced in the legal case, show what they have been doing before falling for the treasure-hunting. In an interrogation one of the four accused Vulo Goranov, states that from to , he had been on special assignments ordered by Zhivko Popov, and connected to Yugoslavia and Albania: Establishing who are the Bulgarians living in Yugoslavia. Becoming aware of the Albanian armament in the Kossovo area. Along with all this, Zhivko Popov entrusted me with sporadic tasks such as: My assignment was to find out "what else was Yugoslaviagoing to request from the US in addition to money. I signed the reports with an alias, which was changed by Zhivko Popov himself - "Friend", Stoyanov" and others. In order to accomplish those tasks, I traveled to Yugoslavia 30 to 40 times during this period. He was doing gun trafficking. Emil Alexandrov came to Vienna two or three times in connection to this and I gave him a written report with the information I was able to collect. I do not remember preparing invoices for the trips and the expenses. Zhivko Popov always used to say: Whatever happens we did not sent you, deal with it by yourself. Since the beginning of Zhivko Popov and Alexandrov stopped being interested in these matters. The former Depute Foreign Minister and high level officer from the Intelligence Services, Zhivko Popov and Vulo Goranov, Manager of one of the "Cultural Heritage" firms, also defendant in the trail, have discussed the murder of the writer Georgi Markov and maybe the one of the journalist Vladimir Kostov. The plan included work from September 1, to August 31, It was coordinated with and approved by Mircho Spasov, Director of the "Human Resources" Department of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party, close friend of Todor Zhivkov and protector of the circle around Zhivko Popov, and it bears his signature in the upper left corner. Article 7 of the plan states: The activities were specified between me and Zhivko Popov. The plan was approved on August 18, by Mircho Spasov. Article 7 - Action "Friends" relates to the following: Both have been very active and were writing publications against our regime. Zhivko Popov assigned me to find people who were willing, for money, to make Kostov and Markov shut up i. The initial

idea was mine, but after I discussed it with Zhivko Popov, I think he coordinated it with comrade Spasov and at the end, the action was included in the plan. To accomplish the task, I made contacts, but nothing practical came out of it, because Georgi Markov died and the others from the immigration circles got scared and results, after all, were not achieved. The Chief of the 10th Section "Top Secret Staff" at the Bureau was Colonel Dyako Dyakov, who was the sole chief of the section since its establishment in to its closure in The difference from other sections was mainly in its staff, composed of highly educated people, assigned or able to undertake key positions in Bulgarian organizations in the country and abroad. The intelligence agents have been selected among highly regarded specialists with great reputation in the society - journalists, political analysts and experts, publishers, professors, scientists, artists. In the beginning, there have been 10 officers, but later this number had grown to In addition to Zhivko Popov, who has been in the 10th section until it was closed, he was moved at the time to the 14th section, Vladimir Kostov, has also been among those top secret employees at the 10th. This was a very delicate activity, connected to border states, not regulated, without any clear legal base or codes. It was an activity behind which stood specialists-experts in the area of art, from the Culture Committee. The Interior Ministry guaranteed its discretion, the Foreign Ministry - its diplomatic channels. The activity was related to purchasing art from foreign countries in order to create a fund called "Foreign Art", which was supposed to lead to some results on its own. They do exist as a fact, this activity yielded good results and it could now be confirmed by experts, who can tell what was their price when they were purchased and what is their real value now. In Europe, Asia, Latin America rare and valuable art items were acquired. The activity was conducted on operational level by a specially created structure. It was conducted politically in the direction of an international cultural activity and three people signed under it - Lyudmila Zhivkova, as a Chair of the Culture Committee, the Interior Minister Dimitar Stoyanov, and the Foreign Minister Petar Mladenov. Inside, there were many people, experts and many others who belonged to the intelligence structures since this was a discrete activity that could not be entrusted to experts only. The Office also had a financial structure, which was headed by Zhivko Popov, who was In the Foreign Ministry he was in the management of diplomat resources. In First Central he had a high-ranking - General-Major, and respectively he provided very important channels for coordination between Bulgarian Intelligence and Bulgarian Diplomacy. What exactly were his assignments in connection to First Central? By any means providing intelligence activities, they are complex - there is financial, material, diplomatic provision. He worked in the line of diplomatic provision. And his concrete tasks need to be found out from his personal record. They are none of my business. The 14th Cultural and Historical Intelligence CHI section where Zhivko Popov was transferred after the closure of the top secret 10th section, was created in the beginning of the 70s after the decision to officially celebrate the anniversary of the creation of the Bulgarian State was taken. Its main tasks were: One of them has been the so-called "Macedonian Issue". In the same time, a similar section was created in the Foreign Ministry for the acquisition of archives and artifacts from abroad. The staff was composed of 15 officers. Several authoritative scientists, professors and State administrators were added to it, some of them were also part of the secret intelligence staff. The core of this section have been historians from Sofia University, according an ex-intelligence officer from the section. These were the people who created and worked at the "Cultural Heritage" Office at the Foreign Ministry. He explained that the Office had created several companies, one of them "Metimpex" of Metodi Dimitrov, proved the most profitable and effective. It, as Mutafchiev wrote, has been registered in Switzerland, Greece and Yugoslavia and was represented in Bulgaria by the then Bureau for Provision of Services to Diplomats. Further, Mutafchiev explained that in a matter of a year and a half, the company exported Bulgarian goods worth over USD 4 M and had imported cultural heritage for over USD Mutafchiev also wrote about a second such company from "Cultural Heritage" - "Ulpia", registered in Austria and managed by Vulo Goranov. Mutafchiev complained to the Foreign Trade Minister that the foreign trade company "Rudmetal" was interfering with the "Metimpex" activities by withholding its commission for a load of cigarettes, which, on its part had created problems for "Kintex". So, Mutafchiev requested from the Minister to instruct foreign trade companies such as "Rudmetal", Himimport", "Korekom", "Electroimpex" and others directly working with "Cultural Heritage" to fully collaborate with it. It was headed by Ivan Abadzhiev.

*This article is within the scope of WikiProject Biography, a collaborative effort to create, develop and organize Wikipedia's articles about calendrierdelascience.com interested editors are invited to join the project and contribute to the discussion.*

She was the daughter of Bulgarian Communist leader Todor Zhivkov , and primarily known for her interest in preserving and promoting Bulgarian arts and culture on the international stage. Zhivkova was also a controversial figure within the former Soviet Bloc because of her interests in esoteric Eastern religion and spirituality. Zhivkova was a deputy in the 7th â€™ and 8th National Assembly of Bulgaria. In her lifetime, Zhivkova published a volume of "collected works" mostly edited speeches which was translated into major world languages; her trademark ideas about the need to bring up and educate "rounded personalities" and "imbue public life with beauty" sat awkwardly alongside militant Marxismâ€™Leninism. Moreover, as daughter of the head of Party and state, Zhivkova was often seen as "heir apparent" and enjoyed powers beyond her official purview. She also helped establish the Years of Bulgaria Foundation, a quasi-independent entity to endow the arts. Alongside bringing foreign culture to Bulgaria, Zhivkova did much to permit and encourage Bulgarian artists to travel abroad for study and practice. She also organised the Thracian Gold Treasures from Bulgaria travelling exhibition which visited over 25 world cities, bringing much acclaim. During the last decade of her life, Zhivkova developed intense interests in Eastern culture , New Age matters, religious mysticism , and the occult. In this connection she developed a very close relationship with "the Petrich Oracle" Vanga , a famous village clairvoyant , and with thriller-writer Bogomil Raynov, son of a renowned Bulgarian theosophist and writer Nikolay Raynov. Later, Zhivkova allegedly developed additional interests in Native American and particularly native Mexican beliefs and mysticism. Besides their artistic work as painters, the Roerichs were founders and proponents of Agni Yoga , an idiosyncratic spiritual teaching based on Indian mysticism, so celebrating them so intensively appeared a somewhat eccentric gesture for a Marxist government admittedly, at the time the Roerichs were respected as artists, patriots and explorers in the USSR as well[7]. A Postage stamp with a portrait of Nicholas Roerich by his son Svetoslav was issued in that year. Death Zhivkova died at the age of 38 from a brain tumor. Unsubstantiated rumors continue to circulate that perhaps Zhivkova was murdered by those who disapproved of her esoteric interests. As the daughter of the communist leader, Zhivkova was accorded a very large public funeral in Bulgaria. Some of those were accused of misappropriating public funds intended for the arts and the Gallery of World Art, with the Years of Bulgaria Foundation implicated in serious corruption. Others see her as the archetypal dissolute, spoilt, confused, imperious, and eternally unfulfilled child of the "Red Bourgeoisie. After being adopted by her grandfather, Zheni Zhivkova became a fashion designer and a Coalition for Bulgaria National Assembly deputy. Trivia A boulevard in the capital was named after her Boulevard Ludmila Zhivkova , but later renamed after

**Chapter 8 : Lyudmila Zhivkova - Infogalactic: the planetary knowledge core**

*This page was last edited on 31 August , at All structured data from the main, property and lexeme namespaces is available under the Creative Commons CC0 License; text in the other namespaces is available under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License; additional terms may apply.*

It was published in the book, called "Affair", written by Bogdana Lazarova and her colleague Nikolay Hristov. On July 21 of the same year, the Polish President Lech Valensa signed his historical agreement with the Polish government. Despite being sentenced in , in they were released from jail. The case has been, in reality, dragging on for 22 years. She was in coma for several days while the driver of the heavy truck who had caused the accident disappeared and information about him remains unavailable till today. Another strange coincidence - the accident happened only a month after another one - on October 3 a strange heavy truck caused a side collision with the black government issued automobile "Chaika" carrying the Secretary of the Italian Communist Party Enrico Berlinguer, who had just arrived on an official visit in Bulgaria. While specializing and studying in London, she became close to Krustio Mutafchiev, serving as Chief of the Administrative and Financial Office at our Embassy there, from to with a three-year interruption. Mutafchiev later became one of the bosses of "Cultural Heritage". After returning from London, at the end of he was appointed Chief Specialist at the Foreign Ministry while since September he was assigned to lead a group of employees at "Cultural Heritage". Shortly after, Scotland Yard initiated an investigation of the "Bulgarian Umbrella" version. It is presumed until today that the information has been leaked by a Bulgarian intelligence agent. Mutafchiev himself, however, has, seemingly been an agent at same Bureau: Zhivko Popov entrusted me with the task to work as a spy and to be in charge of the administration of the newly created agency "Cultural Heritage". Who was really the "mole" spilling out in front of the British Intelligence the truth about the "Bulgarian Umbrella" remains a mystery even today. This was, however, the second huge failure of the Bulgarian Intelligence. Actually, the first version about KGB and Moscow ordering Secret Services in Bulgaria to murder the Slavic-born Pope was voiced for the first time not by the reporter Claire Sterling, but by Jordan Mantarov, ex-Secret Services officer, spying in the French capital from until the same and then remaining in Paris as immigrant. Bulgarian Trace" to remain as immigrant in Paris was, however, considered another serious failure of the Secret Services in Bulgaria. Around that time, another officer from the Bulgarian Intelligence stayed in Paris and he was, on top of everything else, part of the "super secret" staff of the First Central Secret Services Bureau. He is the reporter Vladimir Kostov. If he had taken upon himself to establish such connection, this, certainly, was the next, quite serious failure. If Zhivko Popov, had indeed, supervised and monitored Bulgarian spies in Western Europe, all these failures, have been, without doubt, attributed to him. His status at the First Central Secret Services Bureau is shown by the reference given about him regarding his trail for the "Cultural Heritage" and "Fund years Bulgaria". From to he has been an officer with the Internal Army. He is fired from there in October of due to cutbacks. Three years later he is accepted for real military service at the First Central Secret Services Bureau with the rank major. His career there ends on April 30, when he is fired from his post of Chief of the Acting Reserve Department with the ranking of lieutenant-colonel.

**Chapter 9 : Lyudmila Zhivkova, daughter of Bulgarian leader Todor Zhivkov and - UPI Archives**

*This article argues that Lyudmila Zhivkova is the most controversial political figure in Communist Bulgaria. Zhivkova's ideas and initiatives that have been overlooked so far are used as a background for exploring a significant conflict between ideology and national identity in modern Bulgarian.*