

# BUILDING ON SAND: THE PROPERTIES OF THE BULGARIAN COMMUNITY IN THESSALONIKI

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**Abstract:** The article brings out of oblivion the Bulgarian sites of memory in Thessaloniki. On the basis of rich and unused archival sources the public buildings (churches, schools, consulate), which in the second half of the XIX and the beginning of the XX century were owned by the Bulgarian church community in Ottoman Salonica and by the Bulgarian state, were precisely located. The text highlights their fate within the borders of Greece and their use in modern times. Special attention is paid to the Bulgarian cemeteries. Their destruction led to the loss of memory about the Bulgarian presence in the Aegean port. The text emphasizes on the need for active political, public and scientific actions, aimed at the preservation of the memory about the Bulgarian cultural and historical heritage in Bulgaria's neighbouring countries.

**Keywords:** sites of memory, Bulgaria, Greece, Ottoman Empire

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