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The kru'chma, the kafene, and the orient express: Tobacco, alcohol, and the gender of sacred and secular restraint in Bulgaria, 1856-1939

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Abstract

This article explores shifts in patterns of consumption of alcohol and tobacco in Bulgaria, with a focus on public establishments in the nineteenth and first half of the twentieth century. In exploring both the gender dimension of such shifts and its religious implications, the article argues that public consumption of tobacco in particular both reflected and was constitutive of dramatic historical change. At the same time, the increased consumption of such culturally fraught substances provoked an increase in both religious and secular campaigns of "restraint," in which gender played a key role.

Author keywords

Abstinence; Bulgaria; Café; Communism; Consumption; Gender; Protestantism; Religion

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