

Hristo Botev

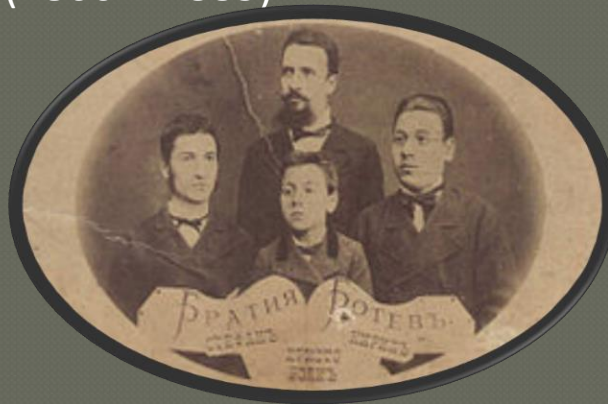
• **Hristo Botev** (Bulgarian: Христо Ботев, also transliterated as **Hristo Botyov**) was born on 6 January 1848 in Kalofer and death on 2 June 1876

- **Hristo Botyov Petkov** (Bulgarian: Христо Ботьов Петков), was a Bulgarian poet and national revolutionary.^[1]
- Botev is widely considered by Bulgarians to be a symbolic historical figure and national hero.



Family

- His father, Botyo Petkov (1815–1869), was born in Karlovo and he was a teacher and one of the most significant figures of the late period of the Bulgarian National Revival towards the end of the Ottoman occupation. He had a strong influence on his son during the latter's youth.
- His mother's name is Ivanka Boteva (1823 – 1911) who was born in Kalofer, also.
- Ivanka and Botyo had 8 children, except Hristo Botev : Ana (1850 – 1867), Petko (1852 – 1872), Stefan (1854 – 1890), Kiril (1856 – 1944), Tota (1859 – 1864), Genko (1863 – 1866) and Boyan (1866 – 1885).



Hr. Botev – National Icon

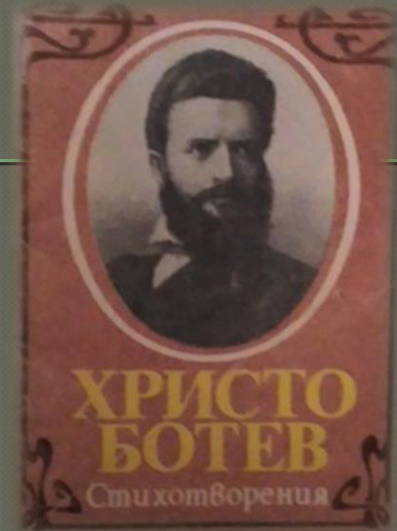
- On May 17, 200 courageous Bulgarians together with Hristo Botev headed to the Vratsa Balkan. Fighting with Turkey is taking place. In one of the battles, near the Kamarata locality on May 20, a deadly bullet pierces the chest of the revolutionary Botev - he dies for the freedom of Bulgaria.
- Botev is a national hero of the Bulgarian people. The day of his death has been declared a day of national mourning and of memorial to the heroes who died in the struggle against national oppression and fascism.



The monument on top of Mount Okoltchitza commemorates Botev and all those who fell fighting for the independence of Bulgaria

Literary works

- Botev's poetry reflected the sentiments of the poor people, filled with revolutionary ideas, struggling for their freedom against both foreign and domestic tyrants.
- Many of his poems are imbued with revolutionary zeal and determination, such as My Prayer ("Moyata molitva"), At Farewell ("Na proshtavane"), Hajduks ("Haiduti"), In the Tavern ("V mehanata"), or Struggle ("Borba"). Others are romantic, balladic (Hadzhi Dimitar), even elegiac. Perhaps the greatest of his poems is The Hanging of Vasil Levski ("Obesvaneto na Vasil Levski").
- In 1875 Botev published his poetic works in a book called "Songs and Poems", together with another Bulgarian revolutionary poet and future politician and statesman, Stefan Stambolov.



HRISTO
BOTEV



NARODNA KULTURA

Poems of Hristo Botev

•The ideologist and instigator of the revolution, a poet and a publicist, Botev leaves his mark in a string of national heroes in Bulgarian history. His most famous works are:

- "Mother"
- "Fighting",
- "Forgiving",
- "Hadji Dimitar"
- "In the tavern",
- "My prayer",
- "To my first freedom"
- and others.

They are a peculiar example of the Bulgarian Revival literature along with the works of Vapzarov and Karavelov.

Legacy



- Some of the most prominent Bulgarians in the new history of the country, such as Stefan Stambolov and Zahari Stoyanov, devoted a lot of attention to Botev and his deeds for Bulgaria. Soon Botev became a mythical figure in the Bulgarian National Revival, and is even today commemorated as one of the two greatest Bulgarian revolutionaries alongside Vasil Levski. A replica of the Danube steamship Radetzky which he commandeered that brought him to Bulgaria was rebuilt using money raised by over 1 million students in 1966 and is now preserved as a museum ship.
- Every year at exactly 12:00 on 2 June, air raid sirens throughout all of the country resonate for a minute to honour Hristo Botev and those who died for the freedom of Bulgaria. People everywhere stand still for 2 to 3 minutes until the sirens are stopped.



At Farellaw in 1868

Не плари, майко, не можи,
ре станах ази хајдучини,
хајдучини, майко, бунтовник,
та меде клета оставих
за прво рого га жалиш!
Ах, маме - майко юнашка!
Прости ме и бер прощавай!
Аз бере пушка и параних
и на нас турам и пароген
срещу брагит си безверни.
Дружина трива, отива,
нртам е страшен, но славен:
аз може мааг га зашита...
Хо... стина ми маа иапрага -
га каже иава иа парогит:
умрѣ сироман за правга,
за правга и за свобода...



Don't cry, mother, don't grieve
that I grew up as an outlaw,
an outlaw, mother, a rebel,
and abandoned you to your
sorrow, mourning your first-born
son. But curse, mother, and rage
at this foul Turkish oppression
which has forced us away, so
young, to this hard and alien land -
to roam, to wander about,
forsaken, downtrodden, depressed.
I know, mother, you love me -
and perhaps I'll die in my youth,
ah, tomorrow, when I go across
the whitened and muffled Danube.
But, tell me, what should I do,
when you, mother, have given me
a heart of man and hero,
and that heart, mother, can't stand
to see the Turks rampaging
over the hearth of my father:
the place I knew as child,
where I sucked at my first milk,
where the beautiful girl of my heart
looked up with her eyes so black
and smiled gently upon me
and in sorrow gazed into my heart;

Analysis of the poem

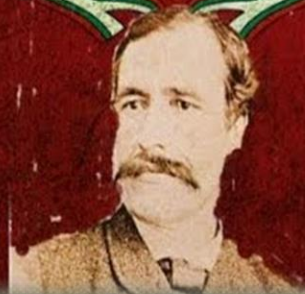


- In the poem "On Forgiveness", the poet revolutionary Hristo Botev reveals the life of the patriarchal Bulgarian in the years when Bulgaria was under Turkish slavery and the difficult choice of the man who took on the unwanted path taken by many Bulgarian fighters for freedom.
- The motives that make the insurgent choose the unwanted road through the "quiet white Danube" are related to the suffering of his loved ones and the desire to liberate the holiest - the home and the restoration of harmony in it. The hero is forgiving his mother before the decisive battle, because the more likely and ending is his death.
- The hero feels morally obliged to his country and must fulfill his filial duty and set an example to his "brothers" who will continue the generic struggle for freedom.
- Before embarking on the difficult road to the liberation battle, the hero is forgiving his most dear man - his mother.
- The hero has a developed sense of honor and dignity. He can not bear the humiliation of his personality and that of his loved ones, he can not tolerate the reproach of the home-the most holy. That is why he is thundering in anticipation of when the undesirable, but necessary, path to development and spiritual immortality will go.



Remember the names of the Bulgarian heroes

ПОМНЕТЕ ИМЕНАТА
ПОМНЕТЕ ИМЕНАТА
НА БЪЛГАРСКИТЕ ГЕРОИ
НА БЪЛГАРСКИТЕ ГЕРОИ



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