

# *Bulgaria*







Czech Republic

Ukraine

Slovakia

Moldova

Austria

Hungary

Romania

Slovenia

Croatia

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Serbia

**Bulgaria**

San Marino

Montenegro

Macedonia


Italy

Albania

Vatican City

Greece

# *The Republic of Bulgaria*

- Flag
- Coat of arms(motto: 'Unity makes strength')
- Anthem: 'Dear Motherland' 
- Capital: Sofia
- Official language: Bulgarian
- Official script: Cyrillic
- Government: Unitary parliamentary republic
- Area: 110.994
- Population: 7.360 million
- Currency: lev(BGN)



Bulgar tribes, under the leadership of Khan Asparukh settled in the area between the lower Danube and the Balkan, establishing the First Bugarian Empire with capital at Pliska

5681





Simeon I the Great ruled over Bulgaria from 893 to 927. Simeon's successful campaigns against the Byzantines, Magyars and Serbs led Bulgaria to its greatest territorial expansion ever, making it the most powerful state in contemporary Eastern Europe. His reign was also a period of unmatched cultural prosperity and enlightenment later deemed the Golden Age of Bulgarian culture.



Byzantine emperor Basil II defeated the Bulgarian army at Klyuch in 1014. The ruler Samuil died shortly after the battle, and by 1018 the Byzantines had ended the First Bulgarian Empire.

In 1185 Asen dynasty organised a major uprising which resulted in the re-establishment of the Bulgarian state. Ivan Asen and Peter laid the foundations of the Second Bulgarian Empire with Tarnovo as a capital.





The Ottomans Turks conquered all Bulgarian lands south of the Danube in 1396. Bulgarians were subjected to heavy taxes and a small portion of the Bulgarian populace experienced partial or complete Islamisation, and their culture was suppressed.



In 1877 Russia declared war on the Ottoman Empire and defeated its forces with the help of Bulgarian volunteers. The Treaty of San Stefano was signed on 3 MARCH 1878 by Russia and the Ottoman Empire, and included a provision to set up an autonomous Bulgarian principality roughly on the territories of the Second Bulgarian Empire. That was the Third Bulgarian state.





Bulgaria became a member of NATO in 2004.

After several years of reforms it joined the European Union in 2007.





**LONG HISTORY.**

**FRIENDLY PEOPLE.**

**UNIQUE TRADITIONS.**

# 1 MARCH

## GRANDMA MARCH DAY

Simply Baba Marta is a Bulgarian holiday when people give each other martenitsa, usually in the form of a wrist band, woven by combining red and white colored threads, symbolizing warmer weather and well being.





# 3 MARCH

## LIBERATION FROM OTTOMAN RULE

The Liberation of Bulgaria refers to those events of the Russo-Turkish War of 1877-78 that led to the re-establishment of the Bulgarian state under the Treaty of San Stefano of March 3, 1878.



# THE EASTER

A festival and holiday celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. On Easter Bulgarians decorate eggs as the first one is always red in memory of the blood of Christ.





# KUKERI

Kukeri are elaborately costumed Bulgarian men who perform traditional rituals intended to scare away evil spirits. The costumes cover most of the body and include decorated wooden masks of animals and large bells attached to the belt.



# NESTINARSTVO

A fire ritual originally performed in Bulgaria. It involves a barefoot dance on smouldering embers, symbolically transferring spiritual power and inspiration.





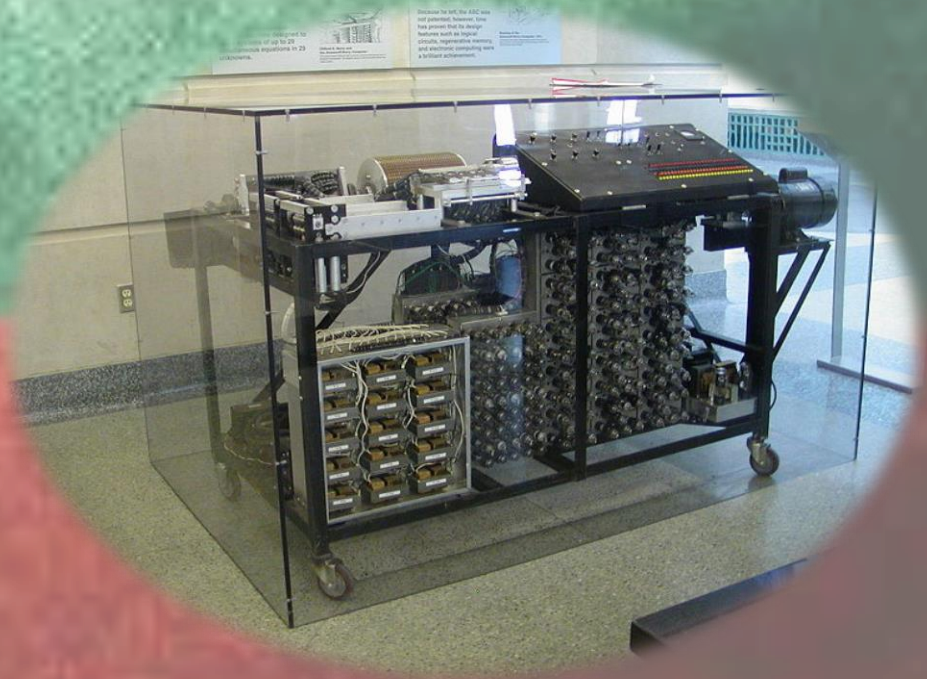
**TALENTS IN SCIENCE.**

**TALENTS IN ART.**

**TALENTS IN SPORTS.**

# John Atanasoff

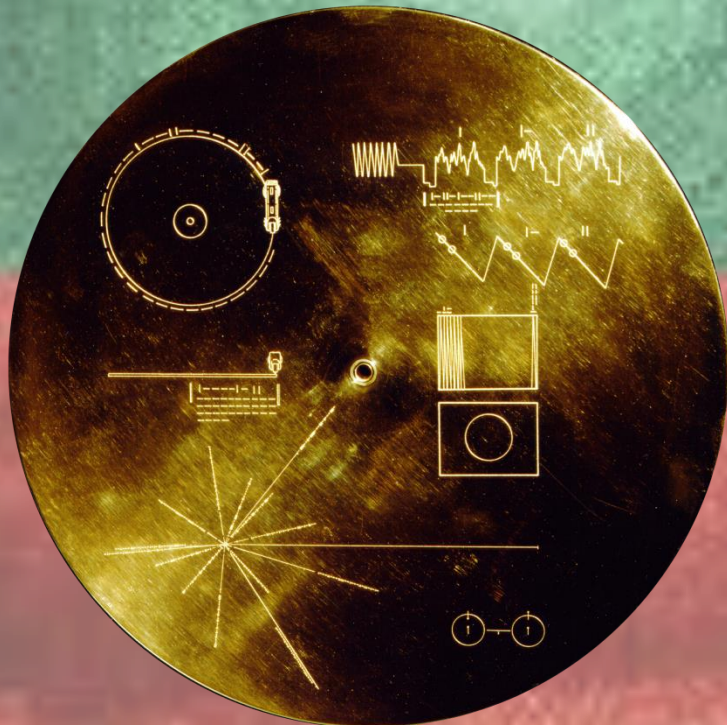
American physicist and inventor, of Bulgarian ancestry, best known for inventing the first electronic digital computer in 1930s at Iowa State College.





# Valya Balkanska

Bulgarian folk music singer, known locally for her wide repertoire of Balkan folksong, but in the West mainly for singing the song "Izlel e Delyu Haydutin", part of the Voyager Golden Record selection of music included in the two Voyager spacecraft launched in 1977.



# Stefka Kostadinova



Bulgarian retired athlete and the current women's world record holder in the high jump for having jumped over 2.00 m 197 times. She is the president of the Bulgarian Olympic Committee.



# Hristo Stoichkov



Retired Bulgarian footballer who is currently a football commentator for Univision Deportes. He is regarded as one of the best players of his generation and is widely considered the greatest Bulgarian footballer of all time. He was runner-up for the FIFA World Player of the Year award in 1992 and 1994, and received the Ballon d'Or in 1994. In 2004, Stoichkov was named by Pelé in the FIFA 100 list of the world's greatest living players.

# Nina Dobrev

Actress of Bulgarian ancestry.

Stars in

the Vampire Diaries

