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FORESTED MOUNTAINS LOOM HIGH ABOVE RILA'S
MONASTIC WALLS (SEE COLOR PLATE IX)

From without, the famous shrine appears as a fortress, but its interior is richly adorned with numerous works of lay and ecclesiastic art.



Natural Color Photographs by Wilhelm Tobien

A MINARET REMINDS THAT THE SULTANS
ONCE RULED AT KARLOVO

Many Turks still live here after half a century of Bulgarian occupation. The reforms which have come to New Turkey have not affected them.

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IN THE SHADOW OF BULGARIAN MONASTERIES



RILA RESEMBLES THE MONASTERIES OF MOUNT ATHOS

It is an immensely wealthy and powerful institution and during the long years of Turkish occupation was one of the centers in which Bulgarian culture and national spirit were kept alive.



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SHIPKA'S GILDED CUPOLAS COMMEMORATE BULGARIA'S WAR OF LIBERATION

The monastery stands at the entrance to Shipka Pass, where during the War for Liberty in 1877-78, Bulgarian volunteers held out against a great Turkish army until their Russian allies arrived.