

## GREAT BRITAIN AND THE ENTRY OF ROMANIA INTO THE FIRST WORLD WAR

Valentin Ioan FUȘCAN\*

**Rezumat.** În studiul de față am încercat să scoatem în evidență locul ocupat în politica Marii Britanii de România în anii neutralității (1914-1916) și interesul manifestat de cabinetul britanic pentru atragerea statului român în război de partea Antantei. Imposibilitatea obținerii unei victorii decisive pe Frontul de Vest i-au determinat pe liderii britanici, precum Lloyd George, Arthur Balfour, Maurice Hankey, să propună diverse planuri de acțiune pe alte fronturi, inclusiv în Balcani. În acest context, importanța României a fost apreciată la adevărata sa valoare la Londra.

**Abstract.** This article deals with the British policy towards Romania in the years of 1914 to 1916. The stalemate on the Western Front convinced British diplomacy of the importance of the Balkans states. The members of War Cabinet, such as Lloyd George, Arthur Balfour and Maurice Hankey drafted a series of plans for inducing the states from the Balkans Peninsula to join the Allies. By his geographic position, Romania could play a decisive role in an offensive against Austria-Hungary. Even though she didn't take the lead in the negotiations with the Romanian Government, His Majesty's Cabinet proved to be interested in the active participation of Romania into the Great War.

**Keywords:** war, diplomacy, negotiations, Great Britain, Balkan Peninsula, Romania

The entry of the Romanian Kingdom in the Great War beside the Entente, in August 1916, has been the subject of various articles, scientific studies and books. The Romanian historians focused mainly on the question of the great internal debate between the politicians who sustained that Romania must enter the war against Austro-Hungary to liberate Transylvania and those who feared a Russian hegemony in Eastern Europe after the war. The implication of British diplomacy into the negotiations between the Entente and the Romanian Prime Minister, Ion I.C. Brătianu, has been only marginally treated. The purpose of this article is to reveal, on the basis of documents from the archives, the attitude of Great Britain towards Romania in the years of neutrality (1914-1916).

\* Ph. D. Candidate, The National Archives of Romania