

THE SCRIPT OF OTTOMAN-RUSSIAN TREATY OF 1812

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Abstract. The Russian Ottoman war of 1806-1812 caught the Romanian Principalities as in a vise. The conflict of the two Empires proceeded on the territory of the Romanian Principalities, with critical consequences for the Romanian people. If until 1812 the Principalities were under the direct influence of the Sublime Porte, after the war, which was won by the Russians, these territories fell under the influence of the Russians. After the war and the Russian-Ottoman treaty, signed in Bucharest, in May 1812, Bessarabia came under the control of the Tsarist Empire, and the Ottoman Empire was compelled to retreat towards the South of the Danube.

The analysis of the document reveals the great importance attached at that time by the Sublime Porte to the French-Russian relationships in order to support their immediate interests as to the claims of the Tsarist Empire. It was precisely this fact that led to a procrastination of the discussions meant to establish the peace, with a view to determining the Tsarist Empire to cede as many things as possible at the negotiating table, as a consequence of the conquests won by the armies both in the Orient and especially in the Balkans. During the negotiations, the tsar's emissaries themselves declared from time to time to the Ottoman delegates that the Sublime Porte behaved in that way because the Tsarist Empire was confronted with Napoleon's threat of launching a campaign against the Russians. The consequences of this strategy adopted by the Ottomans materialized in the clauses of the peace concluded in Bucharest (May 29, 1812), which finally settled the frontiers along the Prut River, but this happened only after long discussions and controversies over the frontier being along the Danube, then along the Milcov or the Siret rivers. Let us also mention that Moldavia's frontier had been decided by the peace of Luck (1711), which concluded an alliance treaty between Dimitrie Cantemir, the prince of Moldavia, and Peter the Great; moreover, this treaty also guaranteed Dimitrie Cantemir's hereditary reign, the borders of Moldavia along the Dniester River and the right of the Romanian prince to take refuge in case of need in Russia.

When reading attentively these documents, we may infer that the negotiations took place in extremely tense conditions, each party clinging as strongly as possible to its position, in order to obtain as many political advantages as it could, for the present moment or for the future. That is why not only once did these negotiations reach the point of being interrupted, inviting a new war. Nonetheless, each time there was a way of resuming the diplomatic negotiations. Unquestionably, the Ottoman delegation sought to take the utmost advantage of the tense relations existing between the French and the Russians, avoiding at the same time to conclude an alliance both with Russia and France, despite their perseverance in trying to use the Ottoman factor in order to be beforehand sure of being victorious in a potential military conflict. All these aspects can also be inferred from the context of the treaty signed at Manuic's Inn.

Keywords: 1806-1812 Russo-Ottoman war, conclusions, borders, Bessarabia, Bucharest Treaty

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