

## ROMANIA AND GERMANY: FRIENDS AND INTERESTS IN THE BALKAN WARS (1912-1913)

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**Abstract.** In the second half of the 19th century German-Romanian relations became tighter and tighter, a consequence of both a prince of the Hohenzollern dynasty being accepted to lead Romania (1866) and by Romania joining the Triple Alliance (1883). The relationship between the two countries was also visible during the Balkan Wars (1912-1913), when the German Chancellery supported Bucharest's territorial claims. There was a great need of an ally, as Austria-Hungary was backing Bulgaria. If the Vienna seemed to be obsessed with Serbia, Berlin did not want Romania to get separated from the Central Powers.

**Keywords:** Balkan Wars, territorial claims, the Peace of Bucharest, the Balkan „powder keg”, economic interests, national interests.

In 1913, the Bucharest peace treaty was concluded following the Balkan Wars. It represents an important moment because it is the confirmation of the international status that Romania enjoyed at that moment. The impact on the public opinion was quite strong. Clemenceau wrote in „L'Homme libre”: “Starting now, Romania distinguishes itself as a moral power as well as a military power in front of Europe.”<sup>1</sup> General Herjeu also commented, “What grand days we are living! Thank God that He helped me see my country elevated so high.”<sup>2</sup>

In order for Bucharest to become the place where the negotiations were to take place and the peace treaty was to be signed, Romania needed support from the Great Powers. In order to achieve this objective, the German chancellery proved to be an extremely important endorser of King Carol I. It was not accidental, as Bucharest enjoyed the support of Berlin throughout the progression of the conflict.

Romania's participation in the Balkan Wars was dictated by its geostrategic position and by its national interests at that moment, as the war broke out in its immediate vicinity. Romanian diplomacy knew how to play its hand very well indeed.

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<sup>1</sup> Herjeu C. N., *Studii critice și militare, Din învățămintele războaielor din 1013 și 1916-1918*, București, Editura Librăriei „Stănciulescu”, 1921, p. 40.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibidem*.