THE PEACE OF BUCHAREST OF 1913:
POLITICAL EFFECTS AND DEMOGRAPHIC
REALITIES IN SOUTHERN DOBROGEA

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Abstract. In the wake of the 1913 war, Southern Dobrogea became important for the
Romanian state for two reasons. On the one hand, the territory constituted the new
homeland of the Aromanians from the Balkans, who were now settling in Southern
Dobrogea due to border reconfigurations in the wake of the Balkan Wars. On the
other, this region was strategically placed for the project of relocation and land
endowment of the Romanians from densely populated regions of the Kingdom.
Romania was intent on imposing a new type of political culture in the Cadrilater with
the aid of Aromanians, who would thus acculturate its various ethnicities.

Keywords: Balkan War, the Treaty of Bucharest of August 1913, Bulgaria, Greece,
Serbia, Turkey, Romania, Southern Dobrogea

In the aftermath of the Balkan War of 1912–1913 the region of Dobrogea
expanded to the south by including new territory as stipulated by the Treaty of
Bucharest of August 1913. This territory, which would be named Southern
Dobrogea, was predominantly inhabited by Bulgarians and Muslims, but some
Romanians also lived here, namely at and around Silistra. Yet there was more to
Romania’s involvement in the Balkan events. When in 1883 Romania joined the
Triple Alliance, she thereby secured her security and protection should a conflict
arise with a powerful neighbour. Nonetheless, at the beginning of the 20th century
the process of de-nationalisation by the Hungarian state, which Vienna could not,
or would not, inhibit, made Romania move away from the Triple Alliance and
towards the Entente.

In effect, Romania’s participation in the Balkan War, and especially her
signing of the Peace Treaty of Bucharest, meant effectively Romania’s breakup
with the Triple Alliance, which would be declared officially during the Crown
Council of Peleş held in August 1914. Unsurprisingly, historian Nicolae Iorga
wrote in 1913: “Across the Danube, our soldiers are commencing the liberation of
Transylvania”.1

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1 Nicolae Iorga, Acțiunea militară a României cu ostașii noștri [Romania’s Military Action with
Our Soldiers], Editura Societății Neamul Românesc, Vălenii de Munte, 1913, p.39. See also Titu