

**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

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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 20<sup>th</sup> 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*".<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 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