

THE ROMANIAN ARMED FORCES IN THE SECOND BALKAN WAR

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Abstract: The Balkan Wars took place as a final episode of the Oriental Problem. Until the start of the war, the Ottoman Empire still owned in the Balkans a continuous strip of territories, between the Black Sea and the Adriatic Sea. In 1913, The Second Balkan War breaks out, during whom Serbia teams up with Greece against Bulgaria, in order to stand out against Bulgaria's pretenses. Within this context, Romania's entrance in the war against Bulgaria was going to stop hostilities and prepare the Treaty of Bucharest. Romania's entry into the war was a decision Prime Minister Titu Maiorescu, approved by King Carol I. The Romanian Armed Force campaign plan states that the military action should take place in two theatres of operation. Immediately after signing the peace treaty, the Ministry of War issued the Instructions relating to demobilisation.

Keywords: Balkan War, military, Romanian, General Staff, crisis, frontier, armistice, neutrality, meeting, operation, government, conference, Danube

The early twentieth century was marked by political and military instability in the Balkan Peninsula, against a background of certain events that brought Bulgaria into the European spotlight because of its hegemonic tendencies that got manifest soon after the Bulgarian state became independent. That state of affairs affected peace south of the Danube, having undesirable consequences for neighbouring countries, Romania included.

After completing the implementation of the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin in 1878, the Romanian-Bulgarian relations were only apparently cordial, even if the neighbour south of the Danube was a state with limited sovereignty, being still under the control of the Ottoman Porte. The Peace Treaty of San Stefano, through its provisions referring to the territories that had to return to Bulgaria, in agreement with the idea deliberately promoted by Tsarist Russia, persisted in the geopolitical thinking of the political and military leaders in Sofia, so the territorial claims at the expense of neighbour states were constant until 1912, when the First Balkan War broke out.

The Romanian-Bulgarian relations were dominated by the claims on Dobrogea, intensified after 1908, when Bulgaria gained independence, formulated

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