

TERRITORY OF MACEDONIA IN MEETING THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE  
BALKAN STATES AND GREAT POWERS  
ТЕРИТОРИЈАТА НА МАКЕДОНИЈА ВО ЗАМИСЛИТЕ НА БАЛКАНСКИТЕ  
ДРЖАВИ И ГОЛЕМИТЕ СИЛИ

Sergej Cvetkovski & Goran Zendelovski

Faculty of Philosophy – Institute of Security, defense and peace

[sergej@zfz.ukim.edu.mk](mailto:sergej@zfz.ukim.edu.mk) or [goranz@zfz.ukim.edu.mk](mailto:goranz@zfz.ukim.edu.mk)

Abstract: The desire of the Balkan peoples to gain their large national states will be the main cause of the Balkan wars. A Balkan war has left open burning questions that are still subject to controversy and potential producer of instability. The model of large nationalist states which was successfully applied by some of Western European countries proved to be devastating for the Balkan states. In an attempt to follow the hawkish method of unification of Italy and Germany, at the beginning of the last century Balkan countries has started a war against Turkey and war between themselves. And although their aspirations wasn't fully satisfied, however it can be noted that with the exception of the Macedonian people, the period of the Balkan wars is the only instance in modern history where some people have achieved their nationalistic goals. After the Young Turk Revolution, the Balkan nations will form the Balkan League and will begin accelerated preparations for war. Efforts of the Great Powers to prevent the outbreak of war was insufficient and futile. By the end of November 1912 armies of the Balkan League in war against the Ottoman Empire has been victorious almost everywhere. After the signing of the armistice on the ground, the diplomatic arena will be transferred to London. Two simultaneous conferences are held there in December 1912 in order to be determining the fate of the Balkan Peninsula. By the spring of 1913, antagonism between the Balkan allies has reached the endpoint. The new War for Bulgarians was a chance to annul established alliance with Serbia in order to be gained all Macedonia. In that way, the Greater Bulgaria could better dominate the Balkans. Greeks and Serbs haven't been not only faced with the possibility of sharing rich region with each other, but also to prevent the Bulgarian hegemony. At the end of the Second Balkan War the Treaty of Bucharest on 10th August 1913 will be signed between Bulgaria, Romania, Serbia, Montenegro and Greece. All participants in the Balkan wars have suffered disappointment and defeat in trying to realize

the question introduced at war. But the real sufferers are the Macedonians who were subject to division.

Key words: large nation states, Balkan Wars, aspirations, peace conferences, Bucharest peace treaty.

Апстракт: Желбата на балканските народи да се здобијат со свои големи национални држави ќе би основната причина за Балканските војни. Балканските војни оставија горливи отворени прашања кои и ден денес се предмет на полемика и потенцијален произведувач на нестабилност. Моделот на големи националистички држави кој успешно беше применет од одреден број на западно европски држави се покажа како поразителен за балканските држави. Во обид да се следи воинствениот метод на унификација на Италија и Германија, на почетокот на минатиот век Балканските држави ќе отпочнат војна против Турција и помеѓу самите себе. И иако нема целосно да бидат задоволени аспирациите сепак, може да се истакне дека со исклучок на македонскиот народ, периодот на Балканските војни е единствениот пример во модерната историја каде одредени народи ги оствариле своите националистички цели. По младотурската револуција Балканските народи ќе ја формираат Балканската лига и ќе отпочнат забрзани подготовки за војна. Напорите на Големите сили да се спречи избивањето на војната биле недоволни и залудни. До крајот на месец ноември 1912 год. војските на Балканската Лига во војна против Отоманската империја ќе бидат победнички речиси насекаде. По потпишувањето на примирјето на теренот, дипломатската arena ќе се префрли во Лондон. Две симултани конференции се одржале таму во декември 1912 год. со цел да ја одредат судбината на Балканскиот Полуостров. До пролетта 1913 год. антагонизмот помеѓу балканските сојузници ќе ја достигне крајната точка. Војната за Бугарите претставуваше можност да ја понишат алијанста со Србија и да ја добијат цела Македонија. Поголема Бугарија би можела подобро да доминира со Балканот. Грците и Србите не само што се соочувале со можноста за поделба на богатиот регион меѓусебе, туку исто така и со спречување на бугарската хегемонија. Со завршувањето на Втората балканска војна ќе биде склучен Договорот од Букурешт на 10. август 1913 год. помеѓу Бугарија, Романија, Србија, Црна Гора и Грција. Сите учесници во Балканските војни страдаа од разочараност и пораз во обидот да го реализираат прашањето кое ги вовеле во војна. Но, вистинските страдалници се Македонците кои беа предмет на поделба.

Клучни зборови: големи национални држави, Балкански војни, аспирации, мировни конференции, Букурешки мировен договор.

## INTRODUCTION

The era of European history of nationalism and conflict begins with the complex Balkan Wars of 1912-1913 years. These wars represent the first simultaneous effort of the Balkan peoples to follow the example of Italy and Germany for the establishment of large national states. But these efforts will not go without the participation of major powers that with its rapid intervention will contribute to the establishment of appropriate resolution of the Balkan wars. The imposed sedation will reconfigure the boundaries of the Balkan Peninsula. With that Bulgaria has received Rhodopes and Western Thrace, Greece has got most of Epirus, Greece and Serbia between them has divided fairly disputed region of Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro has split the region of Sandzak and Serbia has also get Kosovo. At the same time, at the European continent has emerged the independent state Albania and many national Ottoman Empire has nearly disappeared.

For the peoples of the Balkan Peninsula, the Balkan wars somehow lasted until 1918. Many of the fighting areas of the Balkan wars continued to be space battles. Because of overlapping rivalry and proclaiming territories, national appetites of post Balkan wars countries were not met. Since then, all of them persist in trial of achieving the national goals of the Balkan peoples. „Patriotic Macedonians have traditionally considered the period 1903–19 and, more particularly, the decade 1903–13 as the most tragic in their history. For Macedonian patriots and nationalists, the partition of their land—which the VMRO fought and the Ilinden Uprising sought to prevent but the European powers approved in 1913 and the Allies confirmed in the peace settlement in 1919—represented a tragedy. In Macedonian mythology, it represents the greatest injustice that Macedonia and its people have ever suffered.“(Rossos, Andrew, 2008: 117).

Balkan nations had very little time to recover after the end of fighting in 1918. Just two decades spaced them with the two world wars. Since Italy has annexed Albania in 1939, immediately after the war will expand again in the Balkans. Yugoslavia will capitulate before the attacks of Germany and Italy in 1941. Ruled by Italy, Albania will annex Kosovo and Bulgaria will again occupy Macedonia and Western Thrace. Battles with different intensity again has raged throughout Balkans in the next 5 years. In this region fighting has participated troops from Germany, Italy and the Soviet Union. After the Second World War Yugoslavia will be

restored and most of the Balkans will fall under Soviet domination. Communist influence that emerged from the shadow of Soviet Russia was the deliverer of peace in the Balkans. The issues raised by the Balkan wars remained forgotten during the years of communist governance, but only to come alive again with the collapse of the regime in 1990. Nationalism erupted again and continued until the early years of this century. As with the previous fighting in the Balkans, also the wars that resulted from the breakup of Yugoslavia have called upon the diplomatic and military interventions of larger forces. Albania has been grappling with turmoil, while Kosovo became a scene of fighting and Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia faced the question of its existence.

The model of large nationalist states such as the example of Germany and Italy proved impractical for the Balkan peoples. Such states, as found here, are simply impossible, because there still persist the claims of nationalists in each Balkan country. Every single attempt in the twentieth century to achieve these goals led to war and foreign intervention. The only solution that could disrupt this pattern of wars and interventions is accepting a non-nationalist perspective of the Balkan peoples.

#### THE EMERGENCE OF NATIONALISM AND GRIEVANCES OF THE BERLIN CONGRESS

The concept of nationalism that originated in France and Germany moved to the Balkans in the early years of the 19th century. The initial influence was largely cultural. Intellectuals have made great efforts to standardize and make popular languages of the Balkans. In this effort, they have often conducted by medieval states that existed in the Balkans before it was conquered by the Ottoman Empire. But soon afterward, the emphasis on nationalism becomes political. The strong desire to achieve national unity motivated Balkan nations to confront their Turkish conqueror. Their leaders assumed that only by achieving national unity their countries could develop and flourish. In this sense Balkan nations will try to implement political and economic success in Western Europe, especially Germany with the adoption of western European concept of nationalism as a model for their own national development. Balkan peoples on nationalism have seen as justification for the creation of a geopolitical entity. The concept of Western European nationalism has replaced the old millet system of the Ottoman Empire in the Balkans, which has allowed to each religious group significantly self governing with the opportunity of living of the same groups close to each other without having to impose on each other. It yielded the Balkan nations a degree

of cultural autonomy. „This increase in nationalism was accompanied by the inability of the Ottoman Empire that was rocked by internal unrest to maintain its territorial presence in the area of the Balkans. The lands – mainly those of Macedonia and Thrace- were the bones of contention for the enslaved Balkan States which will attempt to claim them in order to satisfy their own national interests“<sup>17</sup>

First Serbs in 1803 and then the Greeks in 1821 will rebel against their Turkish overlords, partly as a merit of vaguely understood sense of Western European nationalism. As a result, both in 1830 will create an independent Greek state and the autonomous Serbian state. As for Montenegro, Turkey had recognized its autonomy since the eighteenth century, although more due to the inaccessibility of the area rather than as a result of some kind of national awakening. True inspiration for Balkan nations was the success of the Italians in 1861 and the Germans in 1871 in achieving national unity. The military aspect of the unification of Italy and Germany was presented an example that should be followed. Each of the Balkan peoples predicted recovery of medieval empires on which they have based its national ideas. In 1876 Serbia and Montenegro started a war against the Ottoman Empire and that same year, Bulgaria will exhibit anti - Ottoman revolt. The next year, Russia will intervene in the Balkans on Bulgarian nationalist's side. The predominance of Russians nine months later would be end the Russian - Turkish War with the signing of the San Stefano Treaty in March 1878 and creation of an independent state of Bulgaria and expansion of Serbia and Montenegro. With this agreement were fulfilled maximum territorial aspirations of Bulgarian nationalists. Thus, the former Bulgarian territory encompassed most of the eastern Balkan Peninsula between the Danube and the Aegean Sea including Macedonia. With the exception of the Macedonian people this was a situation where the first and only time in the modern history of the Balkan peoples have achieved their national goals.

San Stefano treaty reaches the negative response of the leading countries in Europe, which in the previous two centuries had the privilege to arbitrate international relations. These countries that existed in 1878 were known as great powers and comprised of Germany, Great Britain, France, Russia, Austria- Hungary and Italy. The desire to reduce the ambition of the Russian Empire in the Balkans and to establish order in the chaos of Ottoman Europe, especially due to the Austro -Hungarian and UK, will bring great powers to agree to a conference in Berlin in resolution the Balkan issues. With the subsequent Congress in Berlin attended by leading diplomats in that time, by great will reduce the quantity and

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17 The Balkan wars 1912 – 1913 through the hellenic and rumanian press of that time  
[dis.army.gr/pdf/balkan\\_wars\\_en.pdf](http://dis.army.gr/pdf/balkan_wars_en.pdf)

the independence of the new Bulgarian state in whose place will be created autonomous Bulgarian principality under Ottoman control, semi - autonomous Eastern Rumelia under the rule of Ottoman sultan and Macedonia will be returned under the direct rule of the Sultan. This settlement of accounts will be disastrous for Bulgarian nationalism. (Ivan E.Geshov, 1916: 94). The Berlin Congress also will recognize the full independence of slightly decreased Serbia, and Montenegro will be divest by San Stefano treaty acquired gains of Herzegovina , Novi Pazar and northern Albania that will remain as parts of Ottoman empery. These areas will also remain targets of Montenegrin and Serbian national aspirations. Persistent Greece demands has led to a kind of consequence Berlin settlement, so the Great Powers in 1881 will sanction Greek annexation of Thessaly and part of southern Epirus

The Bulgarians would not be needed much time to recover from the shock caused by their loss. The series of events though will cause great pain to Bulgarian nationalists, however it would not be fatal to all them as they has begun to indicate that the creation of a Greater Bulgaria is only a matter of time. Bulgaria will not be alone in their frustration with Berlin settlement. Greeks, Montenegrins and Serbs will also dig the Treaty of Berlin as an obstacle of achieving their national aspirations. After 1878 all Balkan countries will try to overcome Berlin outcome and to accomplish national unity.

#### BALKAN NATIONAL ASPIRATIONS

Dissatisfied, Bulgarians are first to act against Berlin settlement. So in 1885 they unilaterally declared the unification of Bulgaria and Eastern Rumelia. At that moment, the Great Powers will act directly to maintain the outcome of the Berlin Treaty. However, Serbia with the support of Austria -Hungary attacked Bulgarian same year. In the impending war between Serbia and Bulgaria, Bulgarians will successfully defend their union and apply a strong resistance to the Serbs. Only the interference of Austria- Hungary has prevented the Bulgarian invasion on Serbia. That hostility between the two Balkan Slavic countries would create an obstacle to the idea of Balkan cooperation against Berlin settlement and the Ottoman Empire. But it cannot be said that relations between Serbia and Montenegro, were suitable for the realization of national unity. Local and dynastic rivalries will prevent Serbia and Montenegro in achieving big - Serbian efforts against the Turks. Accomplishing the idea of a Balkan alliance began in 1891 when Greek Prime Minister proposed the Bulgarian- Greek - Serbian Alliance. At that time neither Bulgaria nor Serbia responded with enthusiasm. Slavic countries remained aside from their Greek orthodox brother's lack of interest in Greek

aspirations in the Aegean and the rivalry because concerning Macedonia. In 1897 Bulgarians and Greeks will fail to achieve short-term co-operation in Macedonia.

That same year Greece will conduct its second attack on the Treaty of Berlin in an attempt to annex Crete. For one month the Turks will easily repel the attack of the Greeks and Great Powers will intervene to prevent Constantinople from achieving significant gains from this win and to keep Berlin's outcome. Humbled Greeks will have to withdraw several positions along their border in Thessaly with the Ottoman Empire. However, Crete will gain autonomy under the auspices of the Great Powers but was forbidden to unite it with Greece. The failure of Greek showed difficulties faced by all Balkan countries faced with opposition to the fading power of the Ottomans. While the Greeks were focused on islands in the Aegean Epirus, Bulgarians looked upon to Thrace, Serbs to Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegrins towards the Albania as to places of their aspirations. However, they all have claims that are overlapping at only one place - Macedonia. Vilayet Ottoman Macedonia consisted the most productive region in the center of the Balkan Peninsula. All three Orthodox Christian countries regarded Macedonia as their right, based on different cultural, historical and linguistic claims. Macedonia for the first time will become a problem in the year 1870 when the Russian government will push Ottoman Turks to allow formation of an Orthodox church that would be independent of the Greek Patriarchate in Constantinople. This so-called Exarchate included churches in Bulgaria and parts of Macedonia. As already mentioned above, eight years later the Russo - Turkish War resulted with independent Bulgaria. The initial San Stefano Treaty of 1878 created Bulgaria encompassing Macedonia. Treaty of Berlin in July 1878 will review the settlement and return the Macedonia under Ottoman rule. Balkans states throughout the remainder of the nineteenth century, has not only challenging the Ottoman control of Macedonia but also with each other. Despite all of them, organized in Thessalonica in 1893 will start to act the largest revolutionary group IMRO. Her slogan: Macedonia for the Macedonians yet in that time supports the idea of an autonomous Macedonia under the Ottoman Empire opposite of joining of Macedonia to Bulgaria. „The ultimate aim remained “Macedonia for the Macedonians” (i.e., preservation of territorial integrity and achievement of one of the following: autonomy within the Ottoman Empire, outright independence, or equal partnership in some future Balkan federation).“ (Rossos Andrew, 2008: 118). In order to counters IMRO the Bulgarian government established Supreme Committee or External organization in 1885. Greeks has organized their Etairia League in 1894 to reinforce the goals of Greek nationalism in Macedonia. Serbs have already had established Association of St. Sava

in 1886. All these groups had promotional and educational purposes. They also have served as an addition to military organizations. Has not been a passive nor Ottoman authority that on similar way has also armed those elements of the population who were inclined towards them and promoted Islamic education and opportunities. Competition for Macedonia between Balkan countries created an obstacle to the formation of a Balkan alliance that would be against the Ottomans.

Apart from Macedonia, Montenegrins and Serbs together showed aspirations towards occupied by Austro -Hungary Sandzak area. It was a territory that has bulged out from Ottoman province Kosovo, and which separated Montenegro from Serbia. Also, Montenegro and Serbia were interested in Kosovo, which was called the heart of Serbia because of the epic battle in 1389 between the Balkan army led by Serbian army and the Ottoman invaders of the Balkan Peninsula. These rivalries in Macedonia, Kosovo and Sandzak escalated in the late nineteenth century. Macedonia will increasingly become a focus of Balkan aspirations. Ottomans manage to preserve power in Macedonia that will direct rival factions of Bulgarians, Greeks and Serbs against each other. First Bulgarians favored by Constantinople, are those who will make educational and cultural breakthrough in Macedonia. In 1903 emerged famous Ilinden uprising in Macedonia led by IMRO which will be directed against Ottoman power. The uprising has been suffocated and by that was created opportunities for Greek and Serbian factions to improve their positions in Macedonia. The failure of the rebellion has caused considerable distress in Bulgaria, where by "public opinion at that time foreign policy of Bulgaria will revolve around a single issue - Macedonia"<sup>18</sup> Unprepared to intervene during the uprising, the Bulgarian army will begin immediately its reorganization following year.<sup>19</sup> Then Bulgarians thought about direct military action against the Ottoman Empire to achieve its national target. In response to the Macedonian Uprising, the Great Powers, led by Austria-Hungary and Russia, has formulated a reform program that proposes limited reforms to the European part of the Ottoman Empire. The program served to support the Berlin showdown, but failed to truly attract the attention of Ottoman rule.

Conscious of its own weaknesses, Bulgaria would join the union with Serbia in April 1904. Serb - Bulgarian treaty of 1904, actually the two separate agreements, is focused on economic and political issues. The agreement also provides mutual military assistance in the event of external attack and called for united action in Macedonia and Kosovo in case

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18 St Danev, "Kabinetût D-r. St Danev 1901-1903 godina," Rodina III 4 (1941) 70.

19 Ministerstvo na Voinata, Shtab na Armiyata voenno istoricheska komisiya. Voinata mezhdu Bûlgariya i Turtsiya 1912-13 god. (hereafter referred to as Voinata) (Sofia,1933-7) I 83-4.



these areas are under threat. However, the agreement remained unrealized due to pressure from Austria -Hungary and because of decrease in the Serb - Bulgarian relations. Because of reservations about the alliance, Bulgaria was to sabotage it releasing the contracts with Serbs before they were ready. It is worth noting that the Serbs will propose union to Montenegro but, this union will remain just on proposals.

Russia's defeat in the war with Japan and the outbreak of revolution in Russia in 1905 will astounded Slavic Balkan countries, who saw Russia as the biggest Slovenian defender. Thus, Bulgarians will realize that external military aid (meaning Russia) might not be available in dealing with the events in the Balkans. Russians who liberated Bulgaria from Ottoman and who sponsored a Greater Bulgaria in San Stephen proved as too weak to endure. What followed was the endeavor of the Bulgarian army to strengthen in the near future to prepare for a future war with the Ottoman Empire.

#### THE CREATION OF THE BALKAN LEAGUE

After the Young Turk Revolution in 1908-1909, governments of Belgrade and Sofia decide to resolve their problems of national unity. (Radoslav Popov, 1974: 262-263). Serbia will seek support against escalating anti - Serbian policy of Austria- Hungary, while Bulgarians will remain focused on their aspirations in Macedonia and to a lesser extent in Thrace. Both governments hasted Young Turks to act before they can implement significant reforms. Another reason for strengthening the Serbian- Bulgarian efforts for the national questions has come from radical activists in their countries. After the failure of the Ilinden Uprising in 1903, the revolutionary organization IMRO will strengthen its power in Bulgaria and act effectively beyond the control of the government in Sofia. On the other hand, neither the Bulgarian government has completely controlled his Macedonian Organization - Supremacists. However, common to both organizations is that they had strong ties with the Bulgarian army. Other similar organizations (such as the Black Hand or Union) were in Serbia and operated within the military and outside government circles in Belgrade. "Both Bulgarian and Serbian paramilitary organizations were determined to achieve national unity with or without government support." (Helmreich, E.C., 1969). Governments in Belgrade and Sofia realized that in order to maintain proper control over their national movements, they have to act forcefully against the Ottoman Empire.

The contacts between Belgrade and Sofia were strengthened in 1909. They were directed to the question of Macedonia. It was a most important question that had to be

decided in the future to but the solution should not eschew the Balkan states.<sup>20</sup> After Bosnian crisis Serbs will have an additional incentive to make deals with other Balkan countries. Serbs were convinced that until they aren't allied with the Bulgarians, their impact on the Croats and Slovenes would be insignificant. But in the alliance with Bulgaria, Serbia would become a center in that would gravitate all Slavic peoples.<sup>21</sup> Serbs has increasingly perceived Yugoslavia as a weapon used against their Habsburg opponents, who were perceived as the main opponent of a Greater Serbia. This is just a small indication that not the overall Serbian aspiration was associated with the Balkans, nor the aspirations of Greeks who among others dreamed of controlling all of the Aegean Sea and the island of Cyprus, gaining Anatolia, despite their limited interest to the north. But to overcome the Balkan Peninsula, Balkan countries first had to secure the interests of each other and against each other starting from the first interest - Macedonia. Such attempts of the Balkan countries to overcome problems that separated them coincide with Russia's decision to the active policy in the Balkans. (Edward Thaden, 1965: 38-57). After the military defeat of Japan and diplomatic defeat by Austria in 1909, Russians in search for an active role in the Balkans has begun to encourage the creation of anti - Austrian Balkan Union. In order to strengthen this position by 1911, rather will engage Russian ambassadors in Belgrade and Sofia. The outbreak of the Italian- Turkish war in September provided a further impetus for the Balkan Slavs to hurry a deal. Apparently that was the Italian- Turkish War, where one of the major forces attacked the Ottoman Empire, further undermined the Berlin settlement.

That same autumn, Bulgaria and Serbia will start exchanging proposals for alliance agreement and after three months of negotiations with the relief of Russian diplomatic help, they reached an agreement. This agreement, signed in March 1912, secured military cooperation against the Habsburg and the Ottoman Empire and contract for Macedonia. The agreement clearly divided the interests of Bulgaria I Thrace and Serbia in Kosovo and Albania and determined that if would not be possible to implement autonomy in Macedonia, then that area to be divided. According to the Bulgarians, the division would be conducted so that they could get across southern Macedonia, including cities of Ohrid, Prilep and Bitola. Northern Macedonia including Skopje, with the contract awarded to the so-called disputed zone, where Russian tsar to act as arbitrary if Serbs and Bulgarians themselves cannot agree on territory belonging. . The Bulgarians were more suited with establishment of an autonomous Macedonia because that would be one step closer to the Bulgarian annexation of Macedonia.

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20 Voinata mezhdú Búlgariya i Turtsiya 1912–13 god. Sofia: Dúrzhavna Pechatnitsa. I, 37  
21 Ibid. 36

And only if this was not possible to achieve, they will invoke the provisions of the agreement on the division of Macedonia. The agreement although stressed Austria as a potential enemy, also its main force was directed to the war amongst the Balkan Slavic allies and the Ottoman Empire. While the Bulgarians were satisfied with the deal because a conviction that their traditional friend Russia will provide eventually disputed area to belong to Bulgaria, Serbia does not really watched with a lot of enthusiasm on agreement. Some disgruntled elements in the Serbian army, Serbs has stepped away too much leaving some Serbian areas that did not allowed to deviate even at the risk of collapse of the deal. (Alex N.Dragnich, 1974: 101). The source of dissatisfaction was Macedonia because the contract clearly acknowledged only Serbian claim of Sandzak. They would only have received northwestern Macedonia due to the possible bias of the Russian arbitration. But the truth is that many Serbs experienced aspirations for the Macedonia as whole. Hence, then the change in the governing structure will give an opportunity to the new Prime Minister of Serbia Nikola Pasic - ardent nationalist - to stay as strict adherent of maxima list Serbian plan .

But on the other hand, even before they completed these arrangements, the government in Sofia will start negotiations with Athens for Bulgarian - Greek alliance, in which the Greeks had previously been interested if it is directed against Turkey. In fact, the Greeks since 1909 when they were humiliated by the crisis of Crete made numerous attempts for union with Bulgaria. Negotiations on a positive resulted in 1911 while at same time the Bulgarian negotiation with Serbia was ongoing. An agreement that was reached between Greece and Bulgaria in May 1912 has secured the political and military cooperation against the Ottoman Empire without specifying any division of Ottoman territories. This failure can be attributed to the Bulgarians, because they saw the union with Greece mainly as insurance used only by the Greek Navy against the Turks. Bulgaria was not convinced of the power of the Greek army on account of their strong army which arrogantly believed they could occupy areas in Macedonia before the arrival of the Greeks in the same territories.

In the third the Greek-Serbian relation, in the summer of 1912 was concluded just a gentleman's agreement between Greece on the one hand and Serbia and Montenegro, on the other. (Katrin Boeckh, 1996: 29). By the time of the outbreak of the First Balkan War the agreement was incomplete because of the issue of division of conquered territories and obligation to help Greece and Serbia if case of intervention of Austria-Hungary, because the Greeks has not felt a strong obligation for any of the Balkan Slavic allies except for struggle against the Turks.

Soon followed and then quickly contracted agreements of different weight on Montenegro with Belgrade, Sofia and Athens. Thus, the Balkan League was completed. Balkan allies were willing and prepared to fight to finally complete the process of national unity.

In the summer of 1912 the Ottoman control of the Balkans, especially in Albania and Macedonia was quite deteriorated. Appraisal in Albania will begin to spread. In Macedonia, as a result of explosions at a market in Kocani conducted by elements of the IMRO as a direct provocation, has resulted in a massacre of more than a hundred Slav Macedonians. This in turn will make Bulgarians angry. Ottoman army will remain engaged in fruitless efforts against Italians. A victim of this series of problems will be the Young Turks government that will be removed from power in August by fraction of anti - Young Turkish people in the military.

#### PREPARING FOR WAR

In striving for nationalistic purposes the Balkan states has built large armies who all drew a huge amount of national budgets. They have become so powerful so they could oppose to any constitutional or political constraints. In addition, they sought to accomplish their own nationalist agenda and they all on the war with the Ottoman Empire have looked upon like an exciting opportunity. On the other hand there was little enthusiasm for war with the Ottomans. Certain students in Istanbul demonstrated in favor of war with Balkan countries. (Yucel Aktar, 1988: 169-175). Recent wars in Yemen and North Africa has rather blunted the patriotic enthusiasm so the government has remained pretty carefree about the possible upcoming war.

At that time the Balkan allies has begun to develop plans for armies' layout. Military Staff of Serbia and Bulgaria would agree that the main effort of the Bulgarian forces has been in Thrace and the efforts of Serbian forces have been in Macedonia. (Branko Perovich, 1959). In military terms this was completely clear because Bulgarians who had greater military might expect to encounter Ottoman forces because of their proximity to the capital of the Turks. But politically speaking, thus Bulgarian forces were located away from the main purpose of Bulgarian, the Macedonia. According to the schedule Serb forces needed to take and occupy parts of Macedonia that with convention in March were promised to Bulgaria. Bulgarian military leadership at that was not aware of the complications that this war schedule will create for Bulgarian aspirations. Later will really be confirmed that Serbian Orthodox occupation of land that was promised to Bulgaria will become a source of serious

conflict whose consequences continue up to this day.

Upon commencement of mobilization on October 5, Bulgarians will also sign a military convention with Greece. The most important aspect of contract has been an insurance that the Greek fleet is to dominate the Aegean Sea so that the Turks would not be able to transfer troops by sea from Minor Asia to Europe. (Georgi Markov, 1912). It was also envisaged that if Serbs do not enter with 120,000 troops in Macedonia, that to be done by Bulgarians. Both sides also agreed not to accept a truce without prior consent of the other party.

Bulgarians assumed they would achieve their goals without the help or interference of the Greeks. That is why Bulgarians has not made precise delineation of activities in southern Macedonia, especially around Thessalonica which represents an obvious Greece destination but only Bulgarian unrealistic ambition. The final agreement on areas in southern Macedonia could might avoid the race for Thessalonica and deter subsequent hostility between Greece and Bulgaria.

Once the contracts of allies were being fully completed, Bulgaria has started to insist on the implementation of Article 23 of the Treaty of Berlin, which they interpreted to mean the establishment of an autonomous Macedonia. When the Turks refused to consider reforms that would lead to autonomy in their European provinces, Balkan Alliance will be mobilized. Efforts of the Great Powers to prevent the outbreak of war were insufficient and futile. The First World War began on 8 October 1912 with the attack on the Montenegrins on Turkish positions. Turks has declared war on October 16 and the next day Balkan League adequately respond to Turkish declaration of war. Thus, the Balkans will be burned with fire raging to the next six years

#### FIRST BALKAN WAR

Campaign in Thrace in autumn 1912 started with amazing victories of Bulgaria. Their strategic plan succeeded in inflicting demoralizing defeat to their Ottoman opponents and led to the legendary 32 km from the capital Constantinople. Here they has refused Ottoman offer of peace and has continued the attack, but with poor logistical support and weakened by cholera wont be able to collect enough reserves of strength to overcome Ottoman positions and enter the city. If they has succeeded in capture of Constantinople they would actually achieved something that few armies in history have succeeded. They also would thus throw the great powers, especially Russia in jealousy and confusion. Eastern Ottoman army at the beginning of the campaign will be successfully defeated, and the losses will not be only Thrace

and Macedonia, but also Albania. However at the defense line Chataldza Ottoman army will achieve a significant victory by managing from defeat to successfully reposition to stop the advance of the Bulgarians. Thus the Ottoman army would have saved the capital and regained the confidence lost in the initial battles of the war. This battle that was the most important victory against the Ottomans European army in the last 200 years will establish a precedent for victory at Gallipoli three years later. After the Chataldza battle the stalemate will come. Both opposing sides due to losses on assets and living force will be exhausted and for some time incapable of further military action. Thus, the Ottomans continued to hold three small parts of eastern Thrace: Chataldza, Gallipoli and Adrianople, where their continued presence in these locations was called into question.

Western theater that has covered the area of the western region of the Balkans, including Albania, Kosovo and Macedonia, was of minor importance for war resolution and the survival of the Ottoman Empire than it was Thrace. This was a region that was subject to national aspirations of Serbia and Montenegro and most of the aspirations of Greece. To some extent the aspirations of Montenegrins and Serbs overlapped for Sandzak and Kosovo. Serbian army has performed quite well in the First Balkan War. It has adapted quickly and successfully to the possibility of taking the city of Kumanovo. That victory would allow Serbs to progress much faster than they have imagined, according to their original plan, which assumed that the decisive battle would take place south of Skopje. Serbs came out as the big winners in the western theater in the initial phase of the First Balkan war. They not only defeated and drove Ottoman forces from areas of northern Macedonia and Kosovo to which they aspire, but also has occupied Central Macedonia and Albania all the way to the coast of the Adriatic Sea. This success was achieved at low cost of human and material losses. At that time Serbs faced a problem that does not originate from their enemies the Turks but by the Great Powers. Will the Great Powers, especially Austria-Hungary and Italy, allow them to keep what has conquered in Albania?! Closely related to that problem was the issue of Macedonia. Serbs has occupied all territories of central and northern Macedonia, which include large areas that were promised to Bulgaria under the March alliance of 1912. Will Serbia give up these territories to Bulgaria after Serbia already shed blood for them?! These issues has further complicated by the positioning of a one Bulgarian army division in southern Macedonia and transfer of one a Serbian army at Adrianople.

For Montenegro, the initial phase of the First Balkan War was pretty frustrating. Although Montenegrin army has occupied a significant part of Sandzak, however it was not

able to get to Prizren in Kosovo. Worse, Montenegrins will be stopped in northern Albania without clear expectation of victory.

The results of the first battles for Greeks were unclear. They have achieved their main objective, the capture of Thessalonica. However, in political and military sense their victory will be limited. Bulgarians has disputed Thessalonica proclamation of the Greeks. Beside that, the Greeks have lacked territorial agreement with Bulgaria. Conflicting claims of belonging of Thessalonica and also between Greeks and their bigger and stronger ally will undermine the Balkan League. Also, unlike the Serbian and Bulgarian allies, the Greek army will not achieve any significant victory against the Ottomans. Even at the time of the armistice which they have ignored, there were Greek soldiers who were trapped outside Ioannina. This war to Greeks brought little glory and no truce to bring relief. However, the Greek navy as expected proved to be a key asset to the success of the Balkan League. It successfully thwarted the Ottomans transportation of troops from Asia in the Western Balkans and allowed the Greeks to conquer islands in the Aegean which were held by the Ottomans.

The situation for the Ottomans in the western theater of the war at the beginning was not promising. Offensive strategy that has Ottomans applied in Kumanovo was not any more successful than in Thrace. They have failed to stop the Serbs in their advance to Bitola and the Greeks march to Thessalonica. If they happen to withdraw their army of Western Macedonia at the beginning of the war and entrenched that same army in Albania they could gain certain advantages because only there in Albania the Ottomans has enjoyed support from the local population against the Allies. From here they could with fresh troops attack their enemies during their movement through Macedonia and because of ability in Albania to retain unlimited its enemies, they would be get a additional time to bring their troops from Asia and used their numerical superiority to crush the Balkan League.<sup>22</sup>

## TRUCE AND THE LONDON PEACE CONFERENCE

By the end of November 1912 armies of the Balkan League will become victorious almost everywhere. Efforts of war have exhausted them all. Ottomans also were exhausted in their defeat. Victory in Chataldzha still inculcates some hope for them. Neither side will be in a position to continue the fight by the previous level of intensity, nor did any of them have serious expectations for outside assistance.

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22 Balkans wars 1912-1913. Prelude to First World War.  
[http://www.e-reading.biz/bookreader.php/136095/Balkan\\_Wars\\_1912-1913.\\_Prelude\\_to\\_the\\_First\\_World\\_War.pdf](http://www.e-reading.biz/bookreader.php/136095/Balkan_Wars_1912-1913._Prelude_to_the_First_World_War.pdf)

The terms of the truce were in favor of the Balkan allies. However, the allies have not got total satisfying. Bulgaria, Greece and Montenegro further sought to acquire sieged positions. Ottoman resistance was fierce in a situation of Adrianople due to its proximity to Constantinople and also in cases with Janina and Skutari (the latter in northern Albania) due to determination of the Albanian population to avoid external governance. With regard to Bulgaria, because they have committed to arbitration on the issue of northern Macedonia, which showed possibility that they will not receive all of Macedonia, they have experienced anxiety that might get the Thrace as compensation to Macedonia. Their insistence on getting Adrianople secured that this issue will be put on the agenda of the London Peace Conference.

After signing the truce at Chataldza, diplomatic arena has been transferred to London. Two simultaneous conferences were held there in December 1912 in order to be determined the fate of the Balkan Peninsula. With their proposal of January 1, 1913. Turkey has accepted the loss of all lands west of the province of Adrianople in Thrace, but has refused to recognize the lost of Thrace and the Aegean islands. (Ahmad, Feroz, 1969: 115). This would be completely unacceptable for Bulgaria and Greece. As a result, negotiations were brought to a standstill. On January 6th they were fully suspended.

The second conference held in London was more important than the former. There, dating was a synthesis of the ambassadors of the six great powers, signatories of the Treaty of Berlin. It was clear from the beginning that the Great Powers, by their ministers in London and not by representatives of the belligerent countries that meet there, have the ultimate privilege in deciding the settlement of the Balkan war. Great Powers sought to replace Berlin agreement with London Agreement. This was the last breath of Congress system that contained the ambitions of great powers since the Congress of Vienna in 1815 year. According to the outcome of negotiations, the period from the beginning of December 1912 up to the end of January 1913 is a great disappointment to members of the Balkan League and even bigger disappointment for the Macedonian people. None of the members of the Balkan League will achieve its goals. The pressure from the Great Powers would force the Serbs to withdraw from some of their conquests in northern Albania. This period will also be seen as isolation of Bulgaria. Although Bulgaria has achieved the greatest military effort during the war with great victories in Thrace, yet this win has not brought adequate territorial and political gains. Bulgarian disagreement with Greece and Serbia over Macedonia has become a threat to the security of the March 1912 agreement. Turks has gained little advantage from the duration of the truce and mutual friction in the Balkan League. Their garrisons seized



in three cities remained without help from Constantinople. In those two months of truce, in fact there will be no cessation of fighting in Skutari and Ioannina. Simultaneously in all three towns, soldiers and civilians have spent resources and food. The return to power of the Young Turks could allow these troubled locations and troops at Gallipoli and Chataldza some psychological relief, but did nothing to improve their situation. The Turkish military, a little rested, at that time has found herself in a situation to fight again in an effort that previously visible has failed.

Renewed efforts to win the war have demonstrated energy and imagination of the Young Turk government, but that will only bear the additional loss. All three cities seized will capitulate. By the end of April 1913 Ottoman Europe was reduced to the Gallipoli peninsula and the flux area behind the line of Chataldza. Greeks has captured Ioannina with relatively no damage. They will also acquire the location that guarantees control of the Ionian Sea stretching from the Gulf of Arta to the island of Corfu. The other Balkans winners has greatly benefited from the defeat of the Ottomans. Bulgarians has invested tremendous efforts for Adrianople and they have achieved great military victory there, but for most Bulgarians Adrianople is secondary in relation to Macedonia. Additional efforts to take Adrianople has further burden the already exhausted Bulgarian army and has distracted the Bulgarians from conflict that has prepared on the west. While Bulgarians has fought in Thrace, Greece and Serbia has preparing to defensive positions to preserve the achievements in Macedonia. Regard to Montenegrins, they have suffer two defeats in Shkodra. Their evacuation of Shkodra, after spending so many lives and material resources and acceptance of help from Serbia has become a complete military failure.

The end of the fighting in the First Balkan War after long sieges has left all of the participants exhausted. It will be only a brief pause in the cycle of the Balkan wars. Two months since Montenegrins has left Shkodra, the Balkan League will break up with a new round of fighting. The end of the fighting also made Austria- Hungary and other major powers to be engaged in the Balkans more than ever before. Second time in less than six months the Double Monarchy has threatened with war against the state in the Balkans. Only concerted action of other major powers, especially their willingness to send a joint military force in the Balkans will stop the war. Such willingness has been a thin shell against the possibility of the Austro - Hungarian intervention in the Balkans.<sup>23</sup>

<sup>23</sup> Balkans wars 1912-1913. Prelude to First World War.  
[http://www.e-reading.biz/bookreader.php/136095/Balkan\\_Wars\\_1912-1913.\\_Prelude\\_to\\_the\\_First\\_World\\_War.pdf](http://www.e-reading.biz/bookreader.php/136095/Balkan_Wars_1912-1913._Prelude_to_the_First_World_War.pdf)

## RESOLUTION

While diplomatic activity of the Great Powers and the Balkan allies has increased, simultaneously has facilitated dissolution of the Balkan League. By the middle of May the situation in Bulgaria became desperate. Pressed by their previous allies and Romania, by the lack of a final peace with the Turks and the increased uncertainty in protectorship from Russia, Bulgaria has sought solutions to their problems which will provide them Macedonia.

By the spring of 1913 the antagonism between the Balkan allies has reached the endpoint. In such a situation the smallest incident could become the initiation of a new war. According to the general attitude of the Greeks at that time, the war was inevitable and as such it was better to happen immediately when Greece was in a state of military readiness and before normal life and occupations to return than after a year or two when it would be necessary to initiate to fight again. (Cassevetti, D.J., 1914: 308). The same opinion has ruled in Bulgaria and Serbia. And any of these three states could provide the spark for an explosion. Their armies were ready for action, and their politicians had full control of the diplomatic and military situation. Emotions have prevailed before reason. And as addition, Romania and the Ottoman Empire anxiously have anticipated the possibility to benefit from this situation.

Although convinced of the righteousness of their cause and the strength of their army, the Bulgarians were increasingly isolated diplomatically and militarily. Their Russian liberator and protector appeared to have left. Their soldiers, worn out by huge efforts in the war against the Turks, have become increasingly anxious. These conditions have led to desperate action that will end disastrously. If then the Bulgarians were eager to give up their claims to most of Macedonia, then they would come out of the First Balkan War with the greatest territorial expansion. In this respect, Bulgaria would have reliable output on the Aegean Sea, which would extend from the mouth of the Struma River until the Gallipoli peninsula. In addition they would have gotten most of eastern Thrace and would control the retain of strategic threat to Constantinople. Even with these gains Bulgaria would become the dominant force in Southeast Europe and valuable property for allied alliances or the Great Powers. Russia, the only force that could lead such circumstances to a peaceful resolution, neither had power or determination nor intent to do so. Due to the failure of Russia to regulate relations in this sphere that was so vital to its interests, the strong position of Russia -based on Bulgarian led Balkan League- has collapsed. Later than one year, the events in the Balkans again have escaped from Russian control. This time the consequences will extend far beyond the Balkan Peninsula involving the whole planet.

## SECOND BALKAN WAR

Bulgarian attack on Serb positions the night between 29 and 30 of June released the hostilities that were escalated from the previous fall. Not taking into account the state of the Macedonians, Balkan yesterday allies Bulgarians, Greeks and Serbs has perceived war as a means of resolution of their disputes. Essentially, all three countries fought for Macedonia. The new war for the Bulgarians was chance to annul alliance with Serbia in 1912 and to receive all of Macedonia. Greater Bulgaria could better dominate the Balkans. Greeks and Serbs have not only faced with the possibility of sharing the rich region with each other, but also with possibility to prevent the Bulgarian hegemony. Their alliances agreements in spring 1913 have secured northern Macedonia with town of Skopje to stay in the background of Serbia while the part of Macedonia with Thessalonica to stay in the background of Greece. After the commencement of hostilities, Romanians has seized the opportunity to resolve their dispute with Bulgaria regarding Dobruja, while Turks will take the opportunity to recapture Adrianople.

After initiating the Second Balkan War, the Bulgarians has been able to recover from the initial disaster in to the successful defense of their country against the invading Greeks and Serbs. The defeat of the Greeks at the end of the war might allow Bulgarians turn to Serbs to expel them from Macedonia. However, the presence of Romanians and Turks on Bulgarian soil negated the advantage that this victory has created. In fact, the Bulgarians lost the war the day when Romanians crossed the Danube. Largely, the Bulgarians were to blame themselves for their disaster in the Second Balkan War. Diplomatic this was started in early spring of 1912 when they failed to reach a territorial agreement as part of their alliance with Greece Recognition of Greek claims to Thessalonica in the initial agreement of the union could reach such a deal. Pleased Greeks would be so unlikely to associate with Serbia in support of Serbian claims for file audit. Another major diplomatic error of Bulgaria was the inability of resolving the dispute with Romania. Regarding the Romanian claims, seen as blackmail, Bulgarians has refused to make any significant concessions in Dobrudja. That act will cost them the territory of Macedonia. If Bulgarians has recognized part of the territory of Dobruja to Romania, they probably would not be faced with the invasion of Romanians in July 1913. And also the Turks probably would not have tried to reach a revision of the London Agreement without the support of Romania. „The defeated Bulgarians, whose influence in Macedonia had grown steadily since 1870 and who wanted desperately to annex it all and thus create a Great Bulgaria, ended up with the smallest part, Pirin Macedonia. The Peace

Treaty of Bucharest of 10 August 1913 sanctioned this arrangement and ended the Second Balkan War.” (Rossos Andrew, 2008: 127).

If Bulgaria’s government and military command decided that the use of force against Serbia and Greece was the preferred means of resolution of the dispute called Macedonia, the government was that it failed to create the preconditions for diplomatic use of force. It has failed to provide support to Bulgaria from its traditional patron Russia. Instead that, the government has a little flirting with Austria -Hungary, but only got vague assurance on which could not commence military campaign. Provided patronage of Russia or Austria -Hungary would have deterred the attack on Romanians and Ottomans at Bulgarian undefended northern and southern boundary. Under such conditions the Bulgaria would win over Serbia and Greece. (M.I.Madzharov, 1940: 488). Another factor for Bulgaria defeat was social and political unrest that has manifested in the military in June 1913. Although this is not indicative of any national cause rejection of the Bulgarian troops, though concerns about these riots were the deciding factor Bulgarian command to adopt an aggressive policy. Finally, disruption in communication between government in Sofia and army headquarters had horrific consequences. The attack of the Bulgarian army on 29-30 of June (which was not well organized due to poor deployment of armies, with the flaw of unconsecrated forces in Macedonia, which was actually the main goal) was a huge mistake. Not only was hampered by well rested and outnumbered enemy, but also caused Bulgaria to lose the moral support that could have got among the great powers. To win the war Bulgarians were to destroy enemy forces or to occupy Macedonia, preferably both. They also needed to achieve it quickly, but difficult mountainous terrain of eastern Macedonia prevented those efforts and enabled the Greeks and Serbs to remain in control of much of the region. Bulgarians as obvious aggressors has deserved defeat but yet they have never ever lost the idea of a Greater Bulgaria which includes Macedonia and Thrace.

Greeks, Serbs, Turks and Romanians were the big winners in the Second Balkan War. Aside successes of the Turks who regained the key territory of Thrace and secured the capital, Romanians used only army to occupy desired southern Dobruja, not acting on the challenge to occupy Varna and Sofia because of the danger of Strong Bulgaria to be replaced by a strong Serbia. Treaty of Bucharest has not only verified to Greeks significant parts of southern Macedonia including Serres, Drama and Kavala but also has verified the significant border with Serbia. With its victory in the Second Balkan War, Serbia has become a dominant south Slavic force. By the end of the war most of the Macedonians lived under

direct Serbian control. By the Treaty of Bucharest the Montenegro will become a Serbia's satellite. After acquiring prestige among the South Slavs, the Belgrade will compete with Vienna and Budapest for loyalty of Serbs, Croats, Slovenes and Bosnians who lived under the dual monarchy. Victory over Bulgaria has left Serbia as only Russian ally in the Balkans. Loss of Bulgaria has made Russia dependent on Serbia in order to maintain its influence in the Balkans.

#### GEO-STRATEGIC OUTCOME OF THE PEACE AGREEMENT IN BUCHAREST

Treaty of Bucharest was signed on 10th August 1913 between delegates of Bulgaria, Romania, Serbia, Montenegro and Greece. Bulgaria had been completely isolated in the Second Balkan War, with Romanian entrance on its northern border, on the western boundary with the allied armies of Greece and Serbia and at the east of Turkey's army. Thus, Bulgaria in its helplessness was obliged to submit to the conditions of its enemies. All important arrangements and concessions involving the rectification of controversial international boundary lines were completed in a series of meetings, incorporated in separate protocols, and formally ratified by subsequent action of the general assembly of delegates.

With the terms of the agreement most benefited Romania in proportion to its victims. Pursuant to the terms of the contract, against the territory of 2.687 square miles which will belong to Romania the other territorial changes are as follows: Eastern border of Serbia will be drawn between the watersheds of the river Vardar and Struma River up to the Greek- Bulgarian border with the exception of the upper basin of Struma which to remain in possession of Bulgaria. The territory that Serbia would gain would encompass Central Macedonia, Kosovo and the eastern half of the area - Sandzak -Novi Pazar. With this arrangement Serbia increased her territory from 18,650 to 33,891 square miles with a population increase of more than 1,5 million; boundary line which separates Greece and Bulgaria was withdrawn from the ridge of the mountain Belasitza to the mouth of the River Mesta at the Aegean Sea. With this significant territorial concessions which Bulgaria resolutely contested, the Greece territory was increased from 25,014 to 41,933 square miles and a population from 2.660000 to 4 363,000. At previously existing Greek territory with these changes to Greece are added Epirus, southern Macedonia with Thessalonica and Kavala and the Aegean coast to the river Mesta, that has shorten the Bulgarian landlock of the Aegean Sea on 70 miles. Greece will also expand the north-west border with inclusion of Ioannina and definitely has got awarded Crete. But Bulgaria also has contribution of division

of the spoils. Although significantly reduced, was not completely negligible it's obtaining of territory that covers the Pirin part of Macedonia, Western Thrace and 70 miles of the Aegean coast with a net area of 9663 square miles by which it's population growth up by 129 490.<sup>24</sup>

Humiliating relationship that was imposed to Bulgaria was merit to its intolerance and unreasonable levity. The territory which she received was quite limited, failing to release Macedonia which was actually its open goal for entry into war, with lost of Ohrid which was particularly desired. Greece, however, although had much, still been greatly dissatisfied. Purchases of Salonika were a real triumph; Greece was also awarded with the port of Kavala and the territory east of it. In an attempt to gain more, Greece clashed with opposition of the Italian to its proclamation of the territory of South Albania. Greece was deeply dissatisfied also with the award of the islands in the Aegean, arguing that should get much more islands.

The basic flaws of that agreement are: borders that were drawn had little connection with the nationality of the population (read mostly Macedonians) in areas that have been affected and that punishment of Bulgaria which, though probably well deserved in terms of starting a major offensive on Second Balkan War, was so cruel that Bulgaria could never accept the agreement as a permanent settlement. And although Serbia, Greece and Romania can not escape blame for the nature of the contract, it must not be forgotten that their activities in Bucharest were largely forced on merit of forcible settle scores among Balkan states by the Great Powers.<sup>25</sup>

#### INSTEAD OF CONCLUSION

As the first all- European conflict in the twentieth century, the Balkan wars introduced the modern era of warfare involving mass armies, machinery and entire civilian population. The conflict originated in the Balkans in 1912 will has continued in Europe with relatively short interruptions until 1945. Even much later, many of the problems associated with the Balkan wars will reemerged during and after the breakup of Yugoslavia in 1991. This includes the status of Kosovo and Macedonia as well as trial of establishing a large Serbian national state.

One of the biggest tragedies of most of the Balkan Wars was a missed opportunity, especially Bulgaria and Serbia to establish a lasting Balkan alliance. Agreement in March 1912 between Bulgaria and Serbia gave grounds for such an alliance. United Balkans could

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24 See The Treaty of Bucharest, August 10, 1913.  
<https://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/boshtml/bos149.htm>

25 Ibid.

boost economic development on the peninsula and could have avoided years of war between rivals Serbia and Bulgaria. Such a strong alliance also could deflect Austro -Hungary from taking the first fatal step against Serbian act of terrorism in July 1914 which was prelude to First World War. This alliance has failed for several reasons. First, the greed of Bulgaria in the division of Macedonia with Greece. Unrealistic expectations of Bulgaria, especially related with Thessalonica, have prevented the agreement between Bulgaria and Greece in the spring of 1913. Territorial satisfied Greece would likely not have a deal with Serbia. As secondly are underlined Austro - Hungarian and Italian interests in the Adriatic Sea. This has led to the creation of an independent state of Albania in order to repel Greek, Montenegrin and Serbian ambitions in the region. The failure of the latter to establish a presence on the Adriatic has lead to situation in which Serbs has seek compensation in Macedonia with territory proclaim to be Bulgarian. But even Serbs has stayed in Durres on the Adriatic, they could also tried to keep most of Macedonia. The third reason for the failure of the Balkan alliance was mercurial approach to Russia as a guarantor of the agreement of March 1912. Russia has failed to promote a sense of fairness and moderation between Bulgaria and Serbia. As a result St. Petersburg has lost its strong position in Sofia and by that the real possibility finally to establish physical control of the Straits. Instead, the Russians have found themselves in a situation to be associated with less favorable position of Serbia. It resulted that Russia had to follow Serbia in devastating First World War.

All participants in the Balkan wars suffered by disappointment and defeat in their efforts to realize the question which introduced them at war. But the real sufferers are the Macedonians who were subject to division. All other somehow changed their role from winners to losers or reverse with the exception of Macedonia that passed in every way disastrous. Bulgaria's inability to fully realize its ambitions towards Macedonia in the Balkan wars has lead Bulgaria into the fight on the side of Central forces in 1915 and on side of the Germans in 1941. In both cases, the Bulgarian troops has occupied the part of Macedonia that was previously adopted by Serbia and also parts of Greek Macedonia, including the cities of Serres, Drama and Kavala. Anyway the Bulgarian presence there has proven to be short-lived. The legacy of defeat in the Second Balkan War has led to a defeat of Bulgaria in the first and then in the Second World War. With the peace treaty after the First World War, Bulgaria lost Thrace, with its Aegean coast and a few small parts of country near western border with the new Yugoslav state, including town of Strumica. Macedonia as entire has remained beyond the reach of Bulgaria. But the fate of Macedonia is such that not even today

it is whole as a country. The territory of Republic Macedonia of the present-day is territory of Macedonia gained by Serbia in Balkan wars. Serbia really was the big winner in the Balkan wars. Not only the Serbian forces triumphed against Turkish troops in Albania, Macedonia and Thrace and then over the Bulgarian troops in Macedonia, but Serbia has expand on large its territory and population. These gains to Serbia have brought enhanced power and prestige, but also a number of problems. The new territories included non-Serbian population. Armed Albanian rebels in Kosovo supported by IMRO and Bulgaria in Macedonia has opposed the Serbian government since 1913. Serbia has not established full control over these areas until after 1918. During that internal war period, the IMRO has disputed Serbian government in Macedonia. But despite that Serbian national appetites have remained hungry for Albania and Bosnia but unable to achieve it despite that Serbia in World War will be on the winning side. During the Second World War Italians has annexed Kosovo to their Kingdom of Albania, and after the war the two regions of Macedonia and Kosovo will be sort of separated from Serbia within the Tito's Federal Yugoslavia.

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