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AN INSTANCE OF CLENCHING PRESTIGE:  
THE SULINA CHANNEL IN THE GLOBAL POLICY OF THE  
BRITISH EMPIRE  
(MID-NINETEENTH CENTURY)  
(Summary)

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Keywords: Sulina Chanel, Great Britain, foreign policy, Russia, Ottoman Empires, Danube, Black Sea

The role of the Danubian-Pontic space in the foreign policy of Great Britain during the decades that preceded the middle of the 19th century is directly connected with the Czarist and Ottoman Empires position among the United Kingdom’s priorities as a continental and world power. Occasionally punctuated by failures, though never disregarded, British foreign policy in relation to the Danube’s lower course represented the evidence of a great state’s influence, whose presence, once manifested on the Danubian stage, was for decades in row.

Sulina still numbered among the Sultan’s possessions when information concerning it started flowing to the English lettered public. In an age when the Grand Tour – the itinerary journey that was appropriate for the aristocrat par excellence, appraised as the final stage of the “genuine English gentleman’s” complete education – was moving aside for the unpretentious traveler, prefiguring the subsequent modern tourist of the later period, annotations and voyage diaries were casting some light over a territory, practically terra incognita for the casual Englishman.

The interests of the British circles – of the government, the public opinion and not least by the business environment – regarding the Danube’s flowing area into the Black Sea increased concurrently with the development of the attention towards the High Porte and Russia, as the English involvement – both commercial and diplomatic – made its presence progressively felt. In the sphere of the “Great Game’s” spacious frame, the Anglo-Russian competition for supremacy over half of the globe, the Sulina Channel’s role was not without significance.