

România, Marea Britanie și „problema macedoneană”

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Romania, the United Kingdom and the “Macedonian Issue”

Abstract: The Treaty from San Stefano and the Tsarist project of creating a “Greater Bulgaria” that included the entire region bounded by the Šar Mountains, Rodopi and Pind Mountains have brought the “Macedonian issue” to the peak of the British diplomacy agenda. The government on Downing Street was aware that the formation of a greater Bulgarian state under Russian influence would pose a threat to the status quo in the Balkans and would have been an important step in the attempt to tear out the last European territories from the Turkish control. On the other hand, the Ottoman Empire, the traditional protector, could not accept that the Tsarist plans could materialize, and therefore attempted to get involved in finding solutions to reconcile Austro-Hungarian and Russian interests in the region, but still to preserve Ottoman sovereignty over the region. This compromise state of affairs, once reached, did not produce the expected results but, on the contrary, inflamed the rivalries between the small states in the area, who saw in this new state of uncertainty an opportunity to banish the Turks out of Macedonia and to divide its territories. The strained situation at the south of the Danube was not indifferent to Romania, which understood the fact that a “Greater Bulgaria” would pose a direct threat to its security and a persistence of the conflicts in the area would threaten the small Aromanian population in the region. But, since in diplomacy every issue has to be seen as a new opportunity, the Bucharest authorities started negotiations with the Ottoman Empire, England and the other Great Powers to obtain a favorable legal settlement for the Macedonian Aromanian minority.

Keywords: Great Britain, Romania, Macedonia, Minorities, Ottoman Empire.

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