

## România și Imperiul Otoman (1876-1900). Confruntări militare și încercări de reconciliere

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### Romania and the Ottoman Empire (1876-1900). Military Confrontations and Reconciliation Attempts

*Abstract:* Accustomed to look at Romania's relationship with the Ottoman Empire from the perspective of the participation of Romanians to the Russo-Turkish military conflict of the years 1876-1878, we tend to ignore some aspects that we consider important for understanding the dynamics of the Romanian-Ottoman relations in the second half of the 19th century. First of all, we have to remind one thing already accepted, namely that the relationship of suzerainty-vassal between the Ottoman Empire and the Romanian Principalities was interpreted by the Romanian diplomacy as one that assured the Romanian state a certain autonomy and also some freedom of movement in the international plan. The invocation of the old capitulations is a consistent element of the Romanian political discourse for much of the 19th century.

However, by understanding the way in which the international relations were structured, the Romanian diplomacy, beyond its objectives, among which was the one of a settlement on different bases of the Romanian-Ottoman relations, tried almost the impossible in order to avoid participating in a military conflict with an end that could not be perceived. The exhaustion of all diplomatic channels and a certain misunderstanding not only of the Ottoman diplomacy but also of the European diplomacy proved that the only way to regulate the relationship between Romania and the Ottoman Empire was only through war.

With sufficient shyness, the political actors from Bucharest tried after the Berlin Congress to normalize the relations with the Porte and to transform it if not in a supporter of its actions at least in an arbiter of political evolution in the Balkans. For this, it was necessary for a government like the Ottoman one to be convinced that Romania was preoccupied at the end of the 19th century to secure a certain stability in the area rather than to promote an adventurous policy in which the annexation of some territories was the primary objective.

The change of the liberal government in the spring of 1888 did not contribute to the change of the Bucharest perspective over the Romanian-Ottoman relations, the new conservative executive was equally concerned with the maintenance of the Ottoman Empire among the governments that looked with understanding at Romania's attempt to have a word in the geopolitics of the Balkans.

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