



**KETMUN 2020**

**CRISIS COMMITTEE:  
BALKAN WARS**

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# Introduction and Summary

The Balkan wars which occurred between September 8th 1912 - 10 August 1913. has its roots in the rise of nationalistic movements in the Balkans and the expansionist policy of two countries: the Kingdom of Bulgaria and the the Kingdom of Serbia. Also, the Russians provoked Balkan nations against the Ottoman side, which was dealing with the difficulties of the Italo-Ottoman (Tripoli) war. This was seen as an opportunity for the Balkan states, which had many of their people in Ottoman territories. Balkans has been one of the most important places for the Ottomans since its foundation. When the regions in the Balkans are conquered, Turkish Muslims were sent there with the settlement policy. One of the biggest reasons why Ottoman's sent Turkish Muslim people to Balkans is that to abide by their settlement policy and willing to be the ruler of the Balkans. But with the rise of nationalistic movements in the Balkans several states started getting independence. Greece and Serbia were the first ones, followed by Bulgaria. The Ottoman Empire still held considerable amounts of land in the Balkans by the time of the Balkan wars, many of which had Bulgarians, Serbians etc. Bulgaria, Greece, Montenegro and Serbia established the Balkan League in 1912 by a series of bilateral treaties. Montenegro gave the first ultimatum against the Ottoman Empire and started the 1st Balkan war with the others declaring war a week later. The 1st Balkan war proceeded horribly for the Ottoman Empire due to the Balkan League outnumbering their armies and Greek ships blockading any reinforcements.

The 1st Balkan war resulted in the Ottoman side losing the staggering number of %83 of European territories and %69 of their population. After this an independent state of Albania was established which angered the Serbs. However Bulgaria, was dissatisfied over the division of the spoils of war in Macedonia which provoked the start of the second Balkan war, which was against Serbia, Greece, Montenegro, Romania and the Ottoman Empire.

The Second Balkan war was a disaster for Bulgaria, due to its outnumbered armies.

After the Second Balkan war Balkan states sign on the Treaty Of Bucharest in August 10 1913. This treaty caused great losses of land for Bulgaria, although compared to the pre-Balkan war situation it was a net gain. A separate peace was signed with the Ottoman Empire under the Treaty of Constantinople which Adrianople and Kırklareli were returned to Ottoman hands. Second Balkan war also permanently changed the borders. This new arrangement

increased the tension even more. A year later World War I broke out with the assassination of the Austro-Hungarian heir in Sarajevo.

# Characters

## Balkan League

### **Ferdinand I**

He was elected on 7, 1887, to replace the first prince of Bulgaria withdrawn from the throne a year ago. In the early years of his principality Ferdinand became the only ruler of the country after the prime minister's dismissal (1894). He was managed to be recognized internationally after the Bulgaria-Russian diplomatic relations. While the annexation of the Austro-Hungarian to Bosnia-Herzegovina, he declared the independence of Bulgaria against the Ottoman State, in 5 October 1908 he also took the title of tsar. Ferdinand with its expansionist point of view formed the Balkan alliance in 1912. He aimed to end Ottoman liability in the Balkans , to regain his old lands. After the first Balkan war the alliance broke up when the allies who won the failed to agree on the sharing of the seized Ottoman lands. This controversy made Bulgaria to separate from its allies in the second Balkan war.

### **Ivan Fichev**

Ivan Fichev was the Chief of General Staff of the Bulgarian Army, and the leader of its operations in Thrace. He fought in the battles of Kirkkilise and Lüleburgaz and won them, but his advance was stopped short in Çatalca. He was part of the Bulgarian delegation who signed the Çatalca Armistice Agreement with the Ottoman Empire. He resigned in May 1913 as an act of protest but his resignation was not accepted and he held this position during the 2nd Balkan War too. He was a part of the delegation Bulgaria sent to the Treaty of Bucharest.

### **Nikola Ivanov**

Nikola Ivanov was the commander of the Bulgarian 2nd Army during the Balkan Wars. In the 1st Balkan War he was the commander leading the siege of Odrin (Adrianople). During the 2nd Balkan War he fought against the numerically superior Greek Army. He fought in the Battle of Kilikis-Lahanas where he had to retreat and the Battle of Kresna Gorge where he stopped and surrounded the Greeks. He was substituted in the command of the 2nd Army in June 1913 and resigned from the army in August of the same year.

### **Mihail Savov**

Mihail Savov was the second in command of the Bulgarian army during the Balkan Wars. He is one of the two people considered to be responsible for the Second Balkan War, the other one being Ferdinand I. After the 1st Balkan War broke out he was assigned to the new position of the Assistant of the Commander (Tsar Ferdinand). Under his command the Bulgarian Army attacked the Ottoman defenses in Çatalca, despite their low numbers, overstretched supply lines and a cholera epidemic among the soldiers. He also issued the attack order against the Serbian and Greek armies which started the Second Balkan war.

On 29 June 1913 he was put in command of the united 4th and 5th Armies and on 14 July 2nd Army joined also. He was one of the commanders in the battle of Kresna Gorge in the 2nd Balkan War. After the war he was dismissed from service.

### **Peter I**

Peter I was the King of Serbia during the Balkan Wars. He was known to advocate for a UK-style constitutional monarchy. Under his rule Serbia joined the Balkan League.

### **Radomir Putnik**

Radomir Putnik was the Chief of General Staff of Serbia in the Balkan Wars. He was the first Serbian Field Marshal and who won victories against the Ottomans in the First Balkan War (Battle of Kumanovo, October 1912, Battle of Monastir, November 1912) and the Bulgarians in the Second Balkan War (Battle of Bregalnica 1913). In the Battle of Bregalnica he strategically set up his troops in preparation for a Bulgarian attack, which led to a quick victory when a sudden Bulgarian attack actually happened.

### **Stepa Stepanović**

Stepa Stepanović was the commander of the 60000 men Serbian Second Army, and the Minister of War before the Balkan Wars. He participated in the Battle of Kumanovo and the Siege of Odrin, both of which he won.

### **Constantine I**

Constantine I was appointed as a commander in chief in 1900. In 1909 he failed to unite Crete with Greece. Before the war has begun he regained his reputation, therefore he ascended to throne by his taking his father's inheritance. He was the commander that who invaded Salonica.

### **Panagiotis Danglis**

Panagiotis Danglis was the Greek chief of staff during the Balkan wars. After the assassination of King George he became the commander of the armies in Epirus.

### **Nicholas I**

Nikola I Petrović-Njegoš, known as Nicholas I of Montenegro in English, ruled over Montenegro between 1860 and 1918. In 1910 he declared himself to be a king instead of a prince. He was responsible for many reforms such as the first constitution, first currency, Western press freedom and criminal law codes, and much more. He was also declared Field-Marshal in the Russian army which was unprecedented for a foreigner who was the Duke of Wellington. At the start of the Balkan wars he was one of the most enthusiastic of the allies, having declared formal war first. He wanted to drive the Ottomans completely out of Europe and he captured the city of Scutari (Shkoder in Albania).

### **Carol I**

Carol I was the King of Romania during the Balkan Wars. Under his rule Romania participated in the Second Balkan War and conquered Southern Dobruja.

## Ottoman Empire

### **Nazım Pasha**

Nazım Pasha was the Ottoman chief of staff during the 1st Balkan War. He supported the French Offensive Doctrine instead of the German von Goltz doctrine, which was a more defensive and realistic approach which said that in case of a Balkan war Ottomans would be on the defensive instead of the offensive. He developed a bold offensive plan for both fronts despite mobilizing less than half of the expected 600,000 troops. He planned to attack Serbia (a country seen as militarily weaker by the West) first and then Bulgaria. His underestimation of the strength of Serbia caused the failure of his plan.

### **Zeki Pasha**

Zeki Pasha was a field marshal and the commander of the Vardar Army of the Ottoman Empire in the First Balkan War. Under the command of Nazım Pasha he started the Battle of Kumanovo against Serbia. His failure in artillery placement caused the defeat of his forces in Kumanovo. After this, his army retreated to

Manastır (Bitola), where his army established a strong defensive position. Despite this Serbian armies defeated his forces.

### **Kölemen Abdullah Pasha**

Kölemen Abdullah Pasha was the commander of the The Eastern Army in Eastern Thrace of the Ottoman Empire, despite being opposed to the war. When he was assigned to this position he said "We are not in a position to handle even Bulgaria in the case of a war. Our armed forces are in ruins. Even stopping the enemy in Çatalca would be a success." His armies were defeated by Bulgarians in the battles of Kırkkilise (Kırklareli) , Lüleburgaz and Odrin/Edirne (Adrianople)

### **Mehmed V**

Mehmed V, also known as Mehmet Reşat, was the Ottoman Sultan during the Balkan Wars.

### **Ali Rıza Pasha**

Ali Rıza Pasha was the commander of the European Armies of the Ottoman Empire during the Balkan Wars.

### **Mehmet Şükrü Pasha**

Mehmet Şükrü Pasha was the Ottoman commander tasked with defending Adrianople (Modern day Edirne, Bulgarian: Odrin) against the Bulgarian attacks. He did so for 155 days until he was captured by the Bulgarians as a prisoner of war.

### **Hasan Tahsin Pasha**

Hasan Tahsin Pasha was an Ottoman general commanding the VIII Corps of the Ottoman Empire during the 1st Balkan War. He fought and lost against the Greeks in the battles of Sarantaporo and Yenice, and he retreated back to Thessaloniki, where and which he surrendered to the Greeks and thus was declared a traitor by the Ottoman Empire.

### **Esat Pasha**

Esat Pasha was the commander of the Yanya Corps of the Ottoman Empire in the 1st Balkan War. He succeeded in defending Yanya (Ioannina, Epirus) for several months until being defeated by the Greeks in the Battle of Bizani, being taken as a prisoner of war.

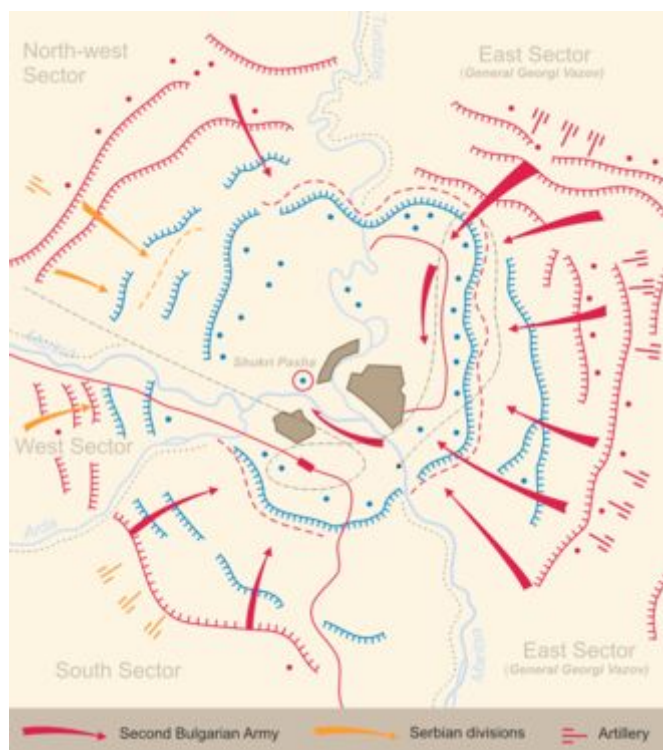
# Important Battles

## *First Balkan War Battles*

Bulgarian-Ottoman Battles:

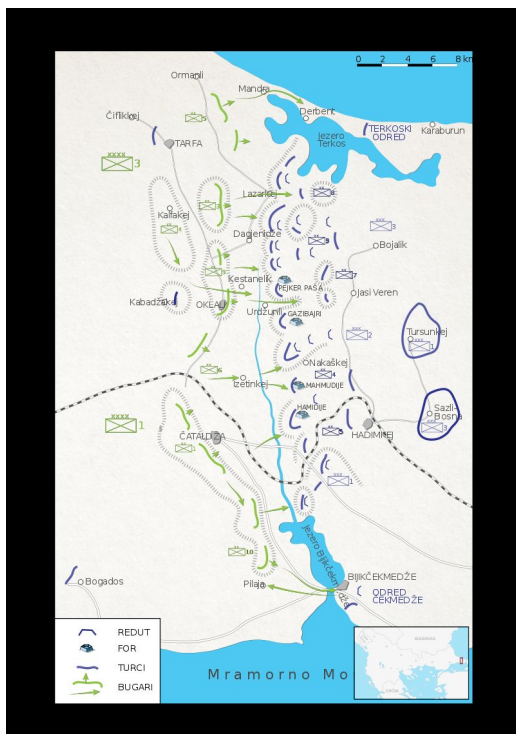
### **Siege of Adrianople**

The battle of Odrin was fought during the first Balkan Wars. It began in November 1912 and ended on 26 March 1913 with the capture of Bulgarian and Serbian army. The battle was between Bulgarian, Serbian and Ottoman Empire. Ottoman side was ruled by Kölemen Abdullah Pasha , Mehmed Şükrü Pasha and Mustafa Kemal Pasha and their (52,597 soldiers). Bulgarian army was commanded by Nikola Ivanov Gergi Vazov (106,425 soldiers). Serbian army was commanded by Stepa Stepanovic (47,275 soldiers). The ending results of the siege were estimated around 1298 death 6655 wounded Bulgarian soldiers, 453 death and 1917 wounded Serbian soldiers, on Ottoman side Bulgarian's claim 7000 died Ottoman soldiers while on the other hand Ottoman's claim estimated number, around 13000 killed and wounded on their side.



## Battles of Çatalca

The battles of Çatalca were 2 wars fought between the Bulgarian army commanded by Radko Dimitriev (176k men) and the Ottoman army (141k men) commanded by Nazım Pasha on a defensive line called the Çatalca Line near Istanbul. The 1st war was a Bulgarian offensive war aiming to take Constantinople and the 2nd war was a Ottoman offensive war to thwart Bulgarian advance. Both wars had indecisive conclusions. Casualties for the 1st war are 1500 men on the Bulgarian side and around 5000 men on the Ottoman side. Casualties for the second battle are unknown but it is known that the Bulgarians suffered heavy losses due to both cholera and fighting.



## Battle of Kırkkilise (Kırklareli)

The Battle of Kırkkilise was fought on the 24th of October 1912 between the 1st and 3rd Bulgarian armies led by Radko Dimitriev (154k men) and V, VI, VII Corps (65k men) led by Mahmut Pasha and Kölemen Abdullah Pasha. This war resulted in a Bulgarian victory and after this defeat the French minister of war Alexandre Millerand declared that the Bulgarian army was the best in Europe and he would prefer 100,000 Bulgarians for allies than any other European army. This war resulted in 887 casualties on the Bulgarian side and 1,500 on the Ottoman side. Mahmut Pasha of the Ottomans was wounded in action.



### **Battle of Lüleburgaz**

The Battle of Lüleburgaz was fought in 28 October- 2 November 1912 between the Bulgarian Army led by Radko Dimitriev (108k men) and the Ottoman Army (130k men) led by Kölemen Abdullah Pasha. This war was the largest battle fought in Europe since the Franco-Prussian war in terms of the amount of forces involved and it resulted in a Bulgarian victory. It also caused the Ottomans to retreat to the Çatalca line. This war resulted in 2536 casualties on the Bulgarian side and 20000 on the Ottoman side.

### Greek-Ottoman Battles:

#### **Battle of Sarantaporo**

The Battle of Sarantaporo was fought in 9-10 October 1912 between the Greek Army of Thessaly led by Constantine I (70k men) and the Ottoman VIII Corps (24k men) led by Hasan Tahsin Pasha. This war resulted in a Greek victory and the capture of Servia and Kozani by the Greeks. This war resulted in 182 casualties on the Greek side and 500 on the Ottoman sides.

#### **Battle of Yenice**

The Battle of Yenice was fought in 19-20 October 1912 between the Greek Army of Thessaly led by Constantine I (70k men) and Thessaloniki Corps (25k men) led by Hasan Tahsin Pasha. This war resulted in a Greek victory and it opened the way for Greeks to take Thessaloniki. This war resulted in 188 casualties on the Greek side and more than 250 on the Ottoman sides.

#### **Battle of Bizani**

The Battle of Bizani was fought in 4-6 March 1913 between the Greek Army of Epirus led by Constantine I (41k men) and the Yanya Corps (35k men) led by Esat and Vehip Pasha who were both taken as prisoners of war. This war resulted in a Greek victory and it allowed Greeks to focus more on a possible battle in Thessaloniki against Bulgaria. This war resulted in 500 casualties on the Greek side and 2800 on the Ottoman sides.

### Serbian-Ottoman Battles:

#### **Battle of Kumanovo**

The Battle of Kumanovo was fought in 23rd-24th of October 1912 between the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Serbian armies led by Radomir Putnik (132k men) and V, VI, VII Corps of the Ottoman Empire (65k men) led by Zeki Pasha. This war resulted in a Serbian victory and after this defeat the Ottoman army mostly abandoned the region. This war resulted in 687 casualties on the Serbian side and 1200 on the Ottoman sides.

### **Battle of Prilep**

The Battle of Prilep was fought in 3rd November 1912 between the 1st Serbian army led by Petar Bojović (132k men) and the V Corps of the Ottoman Empire (32k men) led by Zeki Pasha. This war resulted in a Serbian victory and after this defeat the Serbs were able to move on to Bitola. This war resulted in 2000 casualties on the Serbian side and 300 on the Ottoman sides.

### **Battle of Manastir**

The Battle of Prilep was fought in 16-19 November 1912 between the 1st Serbian army led by Petar Bojović (109k men) and the Vardar Army of the Ottoman Empire (38k men) led by Zeki Pasha. This war resulted in a Serbian victory and after this defeat the Serbs controlled southwestern Macedonia. This war resulted in 539 casualties on the Serbian side and 3000 on the Ottoman sides.

### **Siege of Scutari**

The siege of Scutari took place between 28th of October 1912 and 23rd of April 1913 by the Montenegrin army led by Nikola I (40k men) and the V Corps of the Ottoman Empire (20k men) led by Hasan Rıza Pasha who was killed during this siege and Essad Pasha (not to be confused with Esat Paşa mentioned in the character section) who surrendered. After the siege the status quo was kept. This siege resulted in 15000 casualties on the Montenegrin side and heavy losses on the Ottoman sides.

## *Second Balkan War Battles*

Bulgarian-Greek Battles:

### **Battle of Kilkis-Lahanas**

The Battle of Kilkis-Lahanas was fought in 19-21 June 1913 between the Greek Army led by Constantine I (118k men) and the Bulgarian 2nd Army (75k men) led by Nikola Ivanov. This war resulted in a Greek victory. This war was the worst

military disaster for Bulgaria in the Balkan wars and the war with the heaviest casualties for Greeks in their modern military history. This war resulted in 8828 casualties on the Greek side and 6971 on the Bulgarian side.

### **Battle of Kresna Gorge**

The Battle of Kresna Gorge was fought in 21-31 June 1913 between the Greek Army led by Constantine I (44k men) and the Bulgarian 2nd Army (60k men) led by Nikola Ivanov and Mihail Savov. This war resulted in a stalemate as truce was declared. This war resulted in 10000 casualties on the Greek side and heavy losses on Bulgarian side.

Bulgarian-Serbian Battles:

### **Battle of Bregalnica**

The Battle of Bregalnica was fought in 30 June-9 July 1913 between the Serbian Army led by Radomir Putnik (191k men) and the Bulgarian 4th and 5th Armies (184k men) led by Mihail Savov. It was the largest battle of the Second Balkan War. This war resulted in a Serbian victory. This war resulted in 3000 casualties on the Serbian side and 20000 on Bulgarian side.

### **Battle of Knjaževac**

The Battle of Knjaževac was fought in 4-7 July 1913 between the Serbian Army led by Vukoman Aracic (40k men) and the Bulgarian 4th and 5th Armies (57k men) led by Vasil Kutinchev. This war resulted in a Serbian victory. This war resulted in 280 casualties on the Bulgarian side with the Serbian casualties unknown.

# THE BALKAN STATES



# TERRITORIAL MODIFICATIONS

IN THE BALKANS

1. CONFERENCE OF LONDON

2. TREATY OF BUKAREST



----- Ancient Boundaries  
 - - - - - Boundaries according to the treaty of Bukarest