



TURKISH NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY

TÜRKİYE-ROMANIA JOINT MILITARY HISTORY SYMPOSIUM

ABSTRACT BOOK
8-9 MAY 2023 İSTANBUL

TURKISH NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY
FATİH INSTITUTE OF MILITARY HISTORY RESEARCHES



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PREFACE

The relations between Turks and Romanians date to ancient times. The Turkic communities settled in today's Romania long before the Ottomans. With the Ottoman control over the region, the relations gained new scope. The governors appointed from İstanbul ruled the Romanian lands long time. This situation continued until Romania's independence in 1878. With the establishment of the independent Romanian state, the relations gained a mutual perspective. The military aspect of this process is important to understand the developments not only from the military point of view but also economy and administration.

The Türkiye-Romania Joint Military History Symposium was hosted by Turkish National Defence University on 8-9 May 2023 in Yenilevent/İstanbul. The symposium was carried out in five sessions with the participation of 18 scientists from Türkiye and Romania. It is organized with the cooperation of the Turkish National Defence University-Fatih Institute of Military History Researches, Turkish Academy of Sciences (TÜBA), and Romania Ministry of National Defense-Institute for Political Studies of Defense and Military History.

Our main aim with this symposium is to discuss the common points of Turkish-Romanian military history from Middle Ages to World War II by bringing scholars from Türkiye and Romania together. It is aimed to contribute to Turkish and Romanian military history studies. The symposium proceeding books is planned to be published in the following months. This book will be one of the main sources for the studies on Turkish-Romanian military relations. We must sincerely thank the organizing committee and the participants for their valuable contributions to the symposium.

On behalf of the Organizing Committee

Bünyamin Kocaoğlu

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The End of the Golden Horde Domination in the Territory between Eastern Carpathians and Dniester

*Alexandru Madgearu**

Abstract

The Golden Horde (Ulug Ulus) established its domination in the regions peopled by Romanians east and south of Carpathians after the Mongol invasion of 1241. At the end of the 13th century, these regions entered under the rule of the independent power center established by Emir Nogai at Isaccea. This stopped the expansion of Hungary. The administration introduced by the Golden Horde was partially inherited by the future Romanian states Walachia and Moldavia. The decline which followed the death of Khan Özbek (1313-1341), gave to the Hungarian King Ludovic of Anjou (1342-1382) the opportunity to resume the policy of expansion east of the Carpathians. In 1345 and 1346 were launched offensives through several mountain passes. The forces were mainly composed from warriors from Transylvania and Maramureş, under the command of Andrew Lákfi, the Count of the Szeklers. The Romanians from Maramureş who fought in these campaigns received in 1347 from the King the right to master a *terra* in the region of the Moldova River (the part conquered by Hungary was extended in that moment only up to Siret). This was the beginning of the Romanian state Moldova. The second period of the liberation of the territory dominated by the Golden Horde began in 1353, when the Tatars were defeated by a Hungarian-Polish coalition. After that, the civil war occurred in the Golden Horde made possible the great victory of the Lithuanian duke Olgierd in the battle of Sinie Vodi in 1363. In the same year, the voievode Bogdan detached the Moldavian terra from the Hungarian vassalage. The disappearance of the Golden Horde domination enabled this young state to reach in few decades the natural limit of Dniester.

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Between Russian Empire and Ottoman Empire: Romanian Foreign Policy in the late 1876

*Adrian-Bogdan Ceobanu**

Abstract

The beginning of a new episode of "the Eastern question", in 1875, put the Romanian state in a difficult situation. At that time, the Romanian government was concerned to keep out the territory of Romania from the events from the south of the Danube. The events in the Balkans escalated in April 1876 with the outbreak of the anti-Ottoman uprising in Bulgaria, and in June by starting the hostilities of Serbia and Montenegro against the Ottoman military forces. In the summer of 1876, Mihail Kogălniceanu, Minister of Foreign Affairs, drew up a long memorandum, in which he presented seven important claims of Romania to the Ottoman Empire, which he sent the next day to diplomatic agents abroad. In the new context, in the fall of 1876, the Romanian authorities explored a possible collaboration with Russia. On 26 September 1876, the Prime Minister I.C. Brătianu went to Crimea to establish an agreement regarding the passage of Russian armies through Romanian territory at the south of the Danube. On the other hand, in November 1876, Ali-Bey, the Governor of Tulcea, was sent on a secret mission to the Romanian capital. Under these conditions, in the present text, we will try to answer a few questions: how did Romania's foreign policy evolve towards the end of 1876? How were the missions of Brătianu in Livadia and that of Ali-Bey in Bucharest perceived? And last but not least, how did the two great powers, the Russian Empire and the Ottoman Empire, position themselves towards Romania?

* Dr., Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași / University of Bucharest.

Defence into Offensive: The Romanian Army at the Beginning of the 20th Century

*Bogdan Popa**

Abstract

In the Summer of 1913, the campaign South of the Danube during the Second Balkan War proved the prowess, as well as the limits, of Romania's long-term military policies. Generally acknowledged by the political establishment as a royal prerogative and exerted as such by King Carol I (1866-1914), the organisation and doctrine of the army was put to a stronger test during Romania's involvement in the First World War (1914-1918, 1919).

This paper is an attempt to understand the political and organisational aspects of the Romanian army from the end of the 19th Century to the end of the First World War. I aim to discuss several aspects. The first is the actual organisation and instruction of the Romanian army, given the several reforms and regulations issued before 1916. The second is the political debates stirred by these reforms. The third is the impact of the peace-time preparations on the actual ways and means campaigns were fought, from 1913 until 1919. Besides weaponry and tactical training, issues such as the education of the career and reserve officers and of the regular soldiers must be taken into consideration. Physical fitness must also be considered.

Such an analysis should serve as a starting point for a wider debate on the social history of the Romanian army before the Great Union of 1918.

* Dr., Nicolae Iorga Institute of History.

Austrian-Ottoman Alliance in the Deathbed and Romanian Front

*Bülent Durgun**

Abstract

As being multinational empires, it could be considered that these two empires had a lot in common to cooperate at the beginning of the First World War. However, before the First World War there were controversial topics hindering the development of relationship between them. Such as Austria's annexation of Bosnia in 1908, Austria-Hungary's indifferent attitude on Italians annexation of Tripoli, and its eagerness on joining the other Powers in supporting the evacuation of Adrianople in the Balkan Wars cooled the relations between the two multinational empires. Russia as the main threat to both empires induced them to search a way to constitute an alliance as the war was getting closer. With having territorial dreams Italy was another and important coercion for both the Austria-Hungary and Ottoman Empires driving them to make an alliance. Now that Ottomans had lost her European territory which created a buffer zone with the Austria-Hungary, they were no longer neighbors. Thus, Vienne and Istanbul could find a way to merge their interests in Balkan Peninsula.

At the end of Ottoman's futile attempts on finding a way to be a member of Entente Powers, Ottoman Empire joined the alliance of Central Powers after an invitation from the Austria-Hungary. As the First World War raged on, the relationship entered into an intense phase. In spite of her own financial difficulties, the Austria-Hungary tried to alleviate the war burden of the Ottoman Empire with a little aid, between 1914-1918. Moreover, Austria-Hungary deployed primarily Howitzer and Mortar batteries, motorized units, medical teams, military-technical personnel and ski instructors to support Ottoman units on the battlefield. In exchange for the support from the Austrians, the Ottoman Empire deployed her elite soldiers to the battlefields of Europe in the fronts of Macedonia, Romania and Galicia while she was deprived of the augmentation in her fronts. As the Austro-Hungarian Army was crushed under the Brusilov Offensive in June 1916, the VI. Ottoman corps

* Assoc. Prof. Dr., İstanbul Arel University.

was sent to Romania. However, the Romanian Campaign ended in February 1917, VI. The corps remained in Romania until April 1918. Despite the collaboration and cooperation during the war, both multinational empires lost the war and eventually collapsed. This proceeding, prepared by studying archival documents, yearbooks, periodicals, and a wide range of national and international literature, aims to discuss the effects of the alliance between two empires in the context of the Romanian Front.

The Romanian-Turkish military Relations in 1939: The Challenges of the Black Sea and Balkan Status-quo

*Carmen-Sorina Rîjnoveanu**

Abstract

The relations between Romania and Türkiye had a positive evolution throughout the interwar period. However, the year 1939 put the relationship between the two countries to the test against the background of increasing regional uncertainty and growing challenges that the two countries had to face. Why 1939? Two reasons are particularly important: the first refers to the signing of the Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact which radically changed the continent's geopolitical architecture; the second concerns the moment of the invasion of Poland and, implicitly, the start of the World War II. My paper will seek to decipher how the collapse of the European order shaped the overall configuration of the Romanian-Turkish military relations. What were the main military challenges facing Romania and Türkiye? What were the strategies followed by the two actors as regards the Balkan and the Black Sea regions? Which role Türkiye was expected to play in Romania's security equation? Was a Romanian-Turkish alliance possible and in which way such a reality could have changed the regional dynamics? These are just some of the questions to be answered based on the available documentation existing in the Romanian and foreign (American) archives. It is important to mention that both states understood the need to build a regional front on the Warsaw-Bucharest-Ankara axis, a strategic project which failed in 1939, but whose relevance remains as current today. Undoubtedly, a major concern of Bucharest in 1939 was focused on Türkiye's potential behavior and its actions in the event of an aggression by the USSR against Romania. This dilemma significantly shaped the military relations between Romania and Türkiye and their mutual understanding of the limits and constraints upon their freedom of action in the year that marked the outbreak of the world conflagration.

* Dr., Institute for Political Studies of Defense and Military History, Romania Ministry of National Defense.

A Troublesome Alliance in a Coalition War: The Ottoman Empire and the Belligerence with Romania (1916-1918)

*Claudiu-Lucian Topor**

Abstract

The war on the Romanian front stood from the beginning under the sign of a coalition confrontation, with armies of different profiles taking part in it. In August 1916, the Central Powers responded to Romania's declaration of war by sending combat formations with an uneven level of training. The differences deriving from origins and provenance also affected the cultural profile and the confessional orientation of the combatants. Many questions remain about the cohesion of these military forces. Just as deep were the contrasts that defined the motivation of combatants faced with the stakes of their military commitment. Two Ottoman divisions arrived on the Romanian front in the fall of 1916. They took part in the battles in Dobruja (Raşova; Topraisar) under the command of the Bulgarian general Toshev, and distinguished themselves in the battles fought under the unforgiving eyes of Field Marshal Mackensen. Of all the enemy forces transferred to the Romanian front, the presence of the Ottoman troops was a surprise due to the absence of a direct provocation that would justify belligerence against the Romanians. Although fraught with conflict in the past, the historical enmity between the two states had softened over the years. The intensity of the territorial disputes between Romania and the Ottoman Empire dropped after the Congress of Berlin (1878) and the two states had not shared a border for almost half a century.

The Turkish communities in Romania willingly adapted to the rigors of the Romanian administration, and the legal disputes had decreased in intensity after 1880. The Romanian communities in the Ottoman Empire also tried to prevent conflicts with the Ottoman government. The place of disputes had been taken for some time by flourishing trade relations. The Balkan wars, while obviously stressing bilateral relations, did not create favourable premises for the outbreak of an armed conflict between the two. When in the

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summer of 1913 the Ottoman delegates were not accepted at the peace negotiations in Romania, the attitude of the Romanian government raised eyebrows in Constantinople but did not lead to the straining of diplomatic relations. However, three years later, war was being again resorted to. It is interesting to outline here the profile of this new Romanian-Ottoman conflict. Going through the available sources, we shall formulate remarks on the political agenda of the Ottoman Empire and the implications of the participation of combat units in the war on the Romanian front, on the circumstances of military cooperation between the allies, and on the treatment received at the conclusion of the peace treaty, on the dedication of the Turkish troops on the battlefield, on the level of their military training and on the interaction with the civilian population.

A Bogdanian Beg in the Ottoman Empire: Dimitrie Cantemir

*Demet Aktepe**

Abstract

Dimitrie Cantemir -Kantemiroğlu-, who has a privileged place in both European and Ottoman cultural history, was born in 1673 in Iaş, the capital of Bogdania/Moldavia, as the son of Constantine, the Bogdanian voivode. After his father was made the Beg of Bogdania by the Ottoman Empire, he was brought to the Babıali as a hostage instead of his elder brother Antiyoh, and Kantemiroğlu's adventure in Istanbul, which would last for a total of 22 years, thus began. This multicultural education environment played a major role in the development of Kantemiroğlu, who started his education in Bogdania and continued in both the Orthodox Patriarchate and Enderun after he came to Istanbul. Although his historiography and musicianship seem to be in the foreground today, he is also; He is a scholar with significant competence in many subjects such as politics, geography, philosophy, architecture, theology, and grammar. Kantemiroğlu, who is an important bridge between East and West with his works, introduced these cultures to each other with a unique synthesis. It is possible to see the intercultural richness of him in his immediate surroundings. As a matter of fact, its wide circle, including important military personalities, brings the East and the West together. In this biographical study about Kantemiroğlu, perhaps the most important figure in Turkish-Romanian cultural relations, Dimitrie Cantemir; discussed in terms of his life, relationships, works and personality. Qualitative research method was used in the study.

* Dr., Turkish National Defense University.

Turkish-Romanian Relations in the Interwar Period: From Mistrust to Understanding

*Emanuel Plopeanu**

Abstract

Romanian-Turkish relations in the interwar period are defined, mainly, by reporting to the important regional achievements, in which both countries made a major contribution: the Balkan Entente (of which founding document was signed in Athens on February 9th, 1934) and the Black Sea Straits Convention from Montreux (signed on July 20, 1936). The set of bilateral relations is much more complex and dynamic, including reserved attitudes, tempered divergences and bilateral diplomatic discourse marked, depending on the situation, by mutual appreciation or criticism. Issues in dispute, were, among others: the functioning of the International Straits Commission, the move of the Romanian Legation from Istanbul to Ankara, the different attitude towards the Soviet Union, the emigration of the Turkish-Tatars from Dobrogea. Convergence after 1934/1936 was ensured, of course, by the two regional understandings in which both countries found themselves (here, too, without differences in interpretation) but, as a whole, bilateral relations only knew consistency in the last decade. The need for regional security was also accompanied by the need for better bilateral development, and here the friendship treaty of 1933, the mutual visits of the heads of the two diplomacies and the settlement of the problems of Turkish-Tatar migration, undoubtedly played a major role. Not by chance, after 1936, military contacts also appear - visits at the level of chiefs of staff, contacts with the potential of the armaments industry (the Turkish side showing interest in this regard). Studies of Romanian historiography and archival documents demonstrate this difficult route, at the beginning of a former marked by reservations, including in this regard the modernization effort of the new republic which, however, was largely depicted in the reports of Romanian diplomats.

* Prof. Dr., Ovidius University of Constanta.

Bucharest and Iași Occupations in the 18th Century in the Context of the 1768 Russian Invasion of Bucharest

*Ümmü Gülsüm Filiz BAYRAM**

Abstract

The Principalities of Wallachia, Moldavia and Erdel, located in the west of the Ottoman Empire, became privileged provinces after they became subject to the Ottoman State. With the 1699 Karlowitz Treaty, Erdel was given to Austria, and the Wallachian voivodeship became a direct neighbor of Austria whereas Moldavia voivodeship, was the neighbor of Poland. As Poland lost its power and the Russians got stronger, the Ottoman Empire had to watch the Wallachian and Moldavian borders more carefully against the danger of Austria and Russia.

Since the 18th century, the Ottoman Empire saw both borders as the main defense line against these threats and changed the management of these areas. The main purpose of this change was to prevent Austria and Russia from establishing dominance over Wallachia and Moldavia.

The people of Wallachia and Moldavia were Christian and this was effective in increasing the power of Austria and Russia in Wallachia. Especially the Orthodox Russians were skilled in using their advantages. During the wars of the 18th century, the Russians and Austrians, occupied Bucharest and Iasi many times. The capture of Bucharest by the Russians after the outbreak of the Ottoman-Russian War in 1768, was not due to the success of the Russian army but to the help of the local people and boyars who rebelled against Ottoman rule. In the Treaty of Küçük Kaynarca of 1774, the Ottoman Empire wanted to resolve the issue by accepting and forgiving the condition of those who collaborated with the Russians in order to prevent further rebelling. The Ottoman Empire had foreseen this situation since the beginning of the century and had often sent orders to the voivodes to be fair to people.

* Dr., Mimar Sinan Güzel Sanatlar University.

The people of Wallachia and Moldavia experienced the wars that continued throughout the 18th century. The aim of our study is to emphasize the attitude of these people during the wars and the policy of the Ottoman State against it. The developments in this process will be studied within the framework of micro-history.

Romania and Turkish Straits: Romania Military Equipment Passing through the Straits between 1880-1908

*Hakkı Öz**

Abstract

Romania, which gained its independence from the Ottoman Empire with the Berlin Conference in 1878, began to equip its army with military equipment in order to protect its independence and to use war as a tool for its political purposes. After the Ottoman-Russian War of 1877-78, the Balkan states entered the arms race against the Ottoman Empire. The Balkan states also supplied arms and ammunition for conflicts and interests among themselves. Arms companies originating in Britain, France and Germany were the priority states ordered by many states. As a matter of fact, Romania ordered many equipment from the factories of these countries, which it preferred in other states. Although some of these orders reached Romania by road, some of them were tried to be delivered to the port of Kalas (Galaç) on the Danube River through the Turkish Straits.

With the London Straits Treaty of 1841, the dominance of the Ottoman Empire over the Turkish Straits, which reached an international dimension, was partially reduced. However, the arms shipments of the countries bordering the Black Sea were a sensitive point for the Ottoman Empire. The Ottoman Empire did not allow weapons and military equipment to pass through the straits. Romania, on the other hand, had to obtain permission from Abdulhamid II and the Bâbiâli in order to ship equipment by sea. Until 1893, the Ottoman Empire allowed the passage of ammunition by Romania, and on the mentioned date, Romania's request was not accepted this time when Romania requested to pass the mitrailleuse cannon through the straits. Upon this situation, first the embassy of the country producing the ammunition was mediated, and then the Romanian Embassy applied to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in order to obtain military shipments from the Turkish Straits. The number of ammunition and weapons to be passed through the straits and the factory from which it was procured were reported to the

* Ph.D. Student, Turkish National Defense University.

Bâbiâli through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Thus, the Ottoman Empire had information about Romania's military equipment. In this presentation, the amount and size of military equipment that Romania passed through the Istanbul and Dardanelles Straits between 1880-1908, which is a subject that has not been studied independently before, will be emphasized. Since there are no secondary sources on this subject, the study was handled entirely through Ottoman archive documents and especially the documents in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Yıldız funds were utilized.

(Retd.) Staff Colonel Kenan Kocatürk's Military Attache Duty in Bucharest during World War II

*Hamza Bilgi**

Abstract

Military intelligence became formalized in the 19th century with the establishment of the military attaché organization. The first sample of the military attaché organization was established by Napoleon, and Prussia was the first country to systematize the organization. The main duties of military attachés, who started to operate widely within diplomatic embassies in the second half of the 19th century, are gathering military intelligence on the armed forces of the countries in which they are deployed and representing their country militarily in the other countries which they are deployed. At the beginning of the 20th century, while there were land (Military Attaché) and naval (Naval Attaché) attaché offices, the institution of Air Attaché Office emerged with the use of air power in wars since the Tripoli War. The role of military attachés becomes particularly critical in times of war. In times of war, when troops maneuver rapidly and new fronts are opened one after another, obtaining fast and accurate intelligence, delivering this intelligence to the headquarters in an appropriate and timely manner, and being informed about the operational plans of the warring parties in advance are of vital importance for the decision-making institutions at the strategic level of the country the military attaché represents.

During the Second World War, Germany first annexed Austria and Poland with the Blitzkrieg doctrine, quickly invaded the Netherlands, Norway and Denmark, and then took complete control of France. In 1941, the entry of German armies into Yugoslavia and then Bulgaria caused great indignation in Türkiye, who wanted to maintain its non-war position. An answer was sought to the question of whether Germany's next target would be Türkiye or the Soviet Union, and measures were taken against the possibility of an invasion of Türkiye. Captain Kenan Kocatürk, who became the Military Attaché of Bucharest on June 25, 1940, closely followed the operations of the German

* Res. Assist., Turkish National Defense University.

troops throughout his duty, and had the chance to receive reliable information about the German troops movements from Military Attache of Germany at Bucharest, Max Braun, who was his instructor at the Turkish War Academy. Thanks to this relation, he was able to determine that the target of the German armies was not Türkiye but Soviet Russia, and he had the opportunity to visit the fronts where the war was taking place. The military intelligence, which Kocatürk collected during wartime, had a direct impact on the decision-making processes of the authorized institutions in Türkiye.

The Battle for the Throne: Wallachian Pretenders and Ottoman Troops (early 15th c. – early 17th c.)

*Marian Coman**

Abstract

Of the more than fifty lords that ruled Wallachia from 1418 to 1632, only four directly inherited the throne. Usually, the road to the throne took decades and was extremely convoluted, as a successful pretender needed to gather a wide-ranging coalition of supporters and allies. Throughout this period, the slow integration of the realm into the Ottoman Empire brought significant changes into the game of Wallachian politics. At the end of the 15th century, any pretender needed the backing of an important faction of the Wallachian aristocracy, strongly divided along territorially based clans, but also looked for the support of the Transylvanian Saxon cities, of the Moldavian rulers or of the Ottoman Danubian warlords. Throughout the 16th century the game changed altogether and the main political hub of Wallachia moved to Istanbul and a new set of players joined the game: the factions within the Sultan's court lobbied for one candidate or another, the Constantinopolitan patriarchs did not shy away from getting involved in political intrigues, the Greek archontes penetrated the Wallachian elite, some Wallachian renegades turned into Ottoman dignitaries and continued to look for their family interests, the Wallachian princesses in the Sultan's Harem pressed their brothers' cases, while the French and English ambassadors equally used their political lobbying and their ability to mediate convenient loans from the Western merchant communities in the Levant.

Nonetheless, despite all this political scheming, the competition for the throne did sometimes lead to open military confrontations. The list of decisive battles for the Wallachian throne is not long, but one has to bear in mind that pretenders would avoid an armed clash if their odds were too low. The armies involved in such battles were usually mixed, but more often than not Ottoman troops were present. Obviously, things changed throughout this two-century period. In mid-15th century, an Ottoman-backed pretender needed

* Dr., Nicolae Iorga Institute of History.

a substantial military aid, while a century later a ruler appointed by the sultan was accompanied by a small ceremonial escort. My paper takes a *longue durée* approach to the topic, aiming to assess the integration of Wallachia into the Ottoman Empire by analysing the direct involvement of the Ottoman troops into the struggles for the Wallachian throne. My paper will focus on the nature and number of the Ottoman troops that participated into the open or latent confrontations between the various Wallachian pretenders.

Threat or Factor of Stability? The Perception of Romanian Diplomacy on the Military Developments in Interwar Turkey

*Metin Omer**

Abstract

One of the main aspects that Romanian diplomats in Turkey followed in the interwar period was the military evolution of the newly founded Republic. Using the reports identified at the Diplomatic Archives of Romania, this paper aims to present the way in which the military modernization process initiated from Ankara was perceived and to analyze the reasons that were the basis of the opinions that Romanian diplomats formulated. Thus, the main aspects that will be explained in this paper will be the perception of the regulation of the military service, the reorganization of the navy, the development of military aviation, military acquisitions, and the organization of military maneuvers. Also, the way in which the issue of demilitarization of the Straits evolved from the perspective of the Romanian diplomats will be presented. The paper will also refer to a document about the Turkish army drawn up by the Greek Army's General Staff, which was obtained by the Romanian Legation in Athens.

Analyzing the documents drafted by Romanian diplomats in Istanbul and Ankara, three main aspects that determined their perception of military developments in Turkey can be observed. First of all, they positioned themselves according to the relations that Turkey had with Romania's allies such as Greece or France. Secondly, they feared a rapprochement of Ankara with states, such as the Soviet Union, with which Bucharest had several differences. Thirdly, the positioning towards the endowment of the Turkish army was determined by the level of the relations between the two countries.

* Dr., Ovidius University of Constanta.

Military Activities of the Mongol Empire in the Geography of Romania: 1241 the Western Expansion of the Mongols

*Perihan Karademir**

Abstract

The Mongols, who became a dominant empire over the world in the 13th century, decided to organize an expedition to the West at the great *kuriltai* gathered in Karakorum in 1235 by the order of Ögeday Khan. Within the scope of this decision, they engaged in war activities in the Desht-i Qipchaqs, the Russian region, the Alan and Bashkir lands, the Romanian geography under the rule of the Kingdom of Hungary, the Central European region and the Eastern Europe region. The Mongols have assigned their strongest armies for this expedition.

In this expedition, with experienced commanders such as Subutay, who also served during the Genghis period of the Mongol Empire, Jochi's sons Batu, Orda, Berke, Shiban, Tangad; Ögedei's sons Güyüg and Qadan; Chagatai's son Baydar and Chagatai's grandson Buri; Tului's sons Möngke and Böcek (Bochetor) members of the dynasty joined this expedition. The fact that the majority of the dynasty members participated in the expedition reveals the importance of this expedition. The army moving for the western expedition crossed the north of the Black Sea and captured Kiev in 1240. After the capture of Kiev, the Mongols took a strategic decision and divided the army into four branches and continued their advance to Central Europe by different routes and the Mongols spread an expedition to a large area of siege and conflict. In this context, the Mongols influenced Romanian geography by carrying out war activities on different routes with the army led by Qadan and Buri on the one hand, and the army led by Böcek on the other in the geography of Romania, which is the subject of this paper.

In this study, the military activities of the Mongols in the Carpathians, Transylvania, and Danube region which are located in the geography of Romania nowadays the battles that took place within the scope of the 1241

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expedition were evaluated. In this context the course of the war, the war tactics of the Mongols in the region, the war tools, the military difficulties they experienced during the siege process, and the subjects of military history such as the supply of military personnel during the war were emphasized.

Wallachia and Moldavia's Involvement in the Ottoman Campaigns

Ovidiu Cristea*

Abstract

Usually, the wars between the Ottoman Empire and the Romanian Principalities was a favorite topic of the Romanian historiography the conflicts with the Porte being seen as one of the most glorious pages of the Romanian medieval history. Much less attention was paid to the military collaboration between the Empire and its vassals and, especially, to the participation of the Wallachian and Moldavian troops at the Ottoman campaigns.

The practice seems to have been initiated in the 15th century, during the reign of Murad II (a previous episode concerning the presence of the Wallachian troops at the battle of Ankara seems problematic), when several sources mentions the participation of Wallachian troops in some expeditions directed against the Hungarian Kingdom and in one case it seems that Moldavian units were also involved.

The paper will focus on the 15th and 16th century trying to underscore several aspects of the Ottoman military collaboration with Wallachia and Moldavia. It will be argued that, excepting an episode of 1473, the *voivodes* were compelled to join sultan's army during his expeditions in Central-Eastern Europe and that most of the actions were directed against Hungary and Transylvania. There will be also emphasized the number and the qualities of troops sent to join the Ottoman army, the similitudes and the differences between Wallachia and Moldavia and a special attention will be paid to several situations when the *voivodes* failed to accomplish their duty to raise troops for the sultan's expedition.

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Ottoman Empire against Moldavia (1473-1538): an Unbalanced Clash

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Abstract

According to an internal chronicle, at the end of his reign, Stephen the Great (1457-1504) would have advised his son and successor – Bogdan III (1504-1517) – to submit the realm to the Ottoman Empire due to the overwhelming power of the sultan. The aforementioned counsel is, however, only a legend and also a *topos* as a similar advice was given by the Emperor Manuel II Palaiologus to his son John VIII. However, the aforementioned episode has a symbolic value as it seems to suggest that even for a warrior prince as Stephen was, a small principality like Moldavia would have faced impossible odds in a War against the Porte. The paper will propose an analysis of the main conflicts between Moldavia and the Ottoman Empire from the second half of the 15th century until 1538 (when Sultan Suleyman the Magnificent conquered *de facto* Moldavia) underscoring the most important aspects of the clashed between the Empire and the principality.

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The Romanian Principalities and the Crimea War: Interests and Perceptions according to the International Relations Theory

*Serban Filip Cioculescu**

Abstract

The long and bloody Crimean War (1853-1856) was the result of the persistent political, economic and civilisational conflicts between the two Black Sea empires: the Russian and the Ottoman one. While the Ottomans wanted to preserve their domination on the western flank of the Black Sea area, the Russians used the pretext of their wish to protect Orthodox Christians living in the Ottoman empire to try to break it up and take geopolitically valuable areas: the Straits and Constantinople, which were seen as necessary possessions favoring the naval power projection towards the Mediterranean Sea and then to the world oceans. It soon became a pan-European war, perhaps anticipating the future world wars. To understand why France, Great Britain and other smaller European powers decided to come and support the Ottomans against the Russian invasion, the tools offered by the Realist and Neorealist theories of international relations may be necessary.

Did Paris and London simply tried to keep the regional balance of power unchanged in the Eastern Europe, or did they prefer to crush the Russian empire, expel it from the Black Sea area and favor a strengthening of the Ottoman power? We know that the two main victors of the Crimean war did not really trust each other and were far from having common views and aspirations regarding the emerging world order. Only their common fear of a Russian military and political hegemony in the western Black Sea area and the Balkans made them build a coalition and fight against the Russian huge armed forces. The British also had strong economic and trade interests in the Black Sea and the Caucasus, while the French emperor Napoleon III hoped to favor a French hegemony in Europe. In 1853, he publicly demanded the withdrawal of the Russian armed forces from Moldavia and Wallachia.

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The Romanian principalities were caught between the Ottomans and the Russians, between the need for security, for modernisation, and the aspiration to get independent and eventually unify in a single country. They were occupied by Russian forces, but Russian defeat allowed them to be taken under the custody of the Western European powers, even if they formally remained under Ottoman suzerainty. France and Great Britain saw the Romanian principalities as a likely buffer area to contain any future attempt by Russia to expand itself to the west.

As non-sovereign entities aspiring to become sovereign and caught between the interests of opposing empires, the best option for them was to bandwagon with the Western powers and the Ottoman state, avoiding the scenario of being incorporated (at least Moldova) into the Russian empire. The demilitarisation and neutralisation of the Black Sea, the transfer of Southern Bessarabia to Moldova, and the temporary absence of the Russians from the Danube mouths were the main features which allowed the Romanian entities to prepare for unification and for the independence.

A Short Pictorial History of the Crimean War

*Adrian-Silvan Ionescu**

Abstract

The Crimean War was the first modern war. Many technical innovations were adopted during the armed conflict: weapons were modernised, railways were used to transport troops and supplies, the telegraph were introduced for rapid communications, and trenches were used to protect troops. The war also saw the appearance of press correspondents, the first being the Irishman William Howard Russell, special envoy of *The Times*.

Photography was also a new feature, used for the first time as a means of documenting armed events. The Bucharest-based photographer Carol Popp de Szathmari was the first frontline photographer in the world to document the 1854 Danube Campaign. Eleven months after he took his pictures on the Lower Danube, Roger Fenton travelled directly to the Crimea and took photographs of Ottoman-British-French allied troops. After the fall of Sevastopol, James Robertson photographed the remains of the city's fortifications. He is also responsible for some portraits of Marshal Omer Pasha. That skilled soldier was the strongman of the day and his face was immortalised by many artists and photographers. The Hungarian painter Constantin Daniel Rosenthal painted a portrait of him a few years earlier when Omer Pasha was in Giurgewo. The Austrian photographer Ludwig Angerer took another remarkable portrait of him.

Portraits of commanding officers and war-inspired compositions were often reproduced in the illustrated magazines. Artists such as Theodor Aman and Horace Vernet travelled to the theatre of war, producing large-scale paintings of battle scenes. Others, like Isidore Pils, signed just imaginatively war-inspired pictures. The Crimean War produced a rich iconography that is essential to its illustrated history.

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The Military Approach to Romanian-Ottoman Diplomatic Relations (1878-1916)

*Silvana Rachieru**

Abstract

Romania and the Ottoman Empire established official diplomatic relations after the international recognition of Romania's independence. Once the ministers plenipotentiary were sent in both capital cities, negotiations for different treaties and conventions were opened. They focused on the situation of the Ottoman prisoners in Romania after the conclusion of Russian-Ottoman War, on commercial relations and consular agreement. The main interest of Romania out of these three directions was provided by the new possibility to open toward the Ottoman market and negotiations and conclusions over the decades demonstrate once again in which direction the Romanian interest was target. On the other side, Ottoman state was looking for a strategic partner in the region, understanding Romania's interest to position itself as an important player in the decision-making map in the Balkans. The paper will focus on the military aspects which shaped this relation, from the interest of the Ottoman Empire to have a permanent military representant in the country through military attachés in Bucharest, to its effort to determine the conclusion of a military convention with the new independent state, in a comparative perspective to the Romanian investment in this direction.

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