

K. Bazarbayev , **E. Akdeniz** , **Kh. Tursun** , **E. Zulpiharova** 

Khoja Akhmet Yassawi International Kazakh-Turkish University, Kazakhstan, Turkistan

*e-mail: kanat.bazarbayev@ayu.edu.kz

COVERAGE OF THE BALKAN WARS IN «KAZAKH» NEWSPAPERS

The content of the article stems from the need for an in-depth study of the data covering the Balkan Wars in the Ottoman Empire published under the heading "Foreign News" of the Kazakh newspaper in 1912-1913. The main objective of the research is to scientifically reveal the history of Kazakh-Turkish political and cultural relations in the early 20th century, based on the data published in the newspaper "Kazak". In this regard, the article reviews and systematises the information on the Balkan wars between the Ottoman Empire and Bulgaria, Montenegro, Serbia and Greece, summarises with concrete examples the attitude of the national intelligentsia to the war in the Ottoman Empire, which was published in the edition of the newspaper "Kazak", covers the news of the newspaper on the Balkan wars, information on the topic of the war in relation to the Kazakh steppe is considered a novelty. In the development of the subject idea was guided by the principle of evaluation of historical events and phenomena from the point of view of national interests. As a result, comprehensive documentary information on Kazakh-Turkish relations was compiled from the issues of the newspaper "Kazak" published between 1913-1918. As a result of the research, the Balkan War in the Ottoman Empire, the results of the struggle for power during the I-II Balkan War period published in the Kazak Newspaper were analysed and scientific conclusions were drawn based on the data obtained from the National Publication. The main source is the edition of the Kazakh newspaper.

Key words: "Kazakh" newspaper, Ottoman Empire, I and II Balkan Wars, Central Asia, Turkic-speaking countries, national press.

This research is funded by the Science Committee of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan. (Grant No. AP19676634)

К. Базарбаев*, Э. Акдениз, Х. Тұрсұн, Э. Зұлпыхарова

Қ.А. Ясауи атындағы Халықаралық қазақ-түрік университеті, Қазақстан, Түркістан қ.

*e-mail: kanat.bazarbayev@ayu.edu.kz

«Қазақ» газетінде жарияланған Балқан соғыстары жайлы деректер

Мақала мазмұны ХХ ғасырдың 1912-1913 жылдары «Қазақ» газетінің «Сыртқы хабарлар» айдарында жарық көрген Осман империясында орын алған Балқан соғыстарын қамтитын деректерді тереңдей зерттеудің қажеттілігінен туындайды. Зерттеудің басты мақсаты «Қазақ» газетінде жарияланған деректер негізінде ХХ ғасыр басындағы қазақ-түрік саяси-мәдени байланыстары тарихын ғылыми қалпына келтіру болып белгіленді. Осыған байланысты мақалада басылымда жарық көрген Осман империясы мен Болгария, Черногория, Сербия және Греция арасында өткен Балқан соғыстары жайлы ақпараттар талданып, жүйеленуі және «Қазақ» газеті арқылы ұлт зиялыларының Осман империясында орын алған соғысқа деген көзқарасы, газеттің Балқан соғыстары жайлы жаңалықтарды жариялау арқылы соғыс тақырыбының қазақ даласына қатысты мәселелерін нақты мысалдармен көрсеткендігі жөнінде тұжырымдар ғылыми танымда жаңалық болып саналады. Тақырыптың идеясын ашуда тарихи оқиғалар мен құбылыстарды ұлттық мүдде тұрғысында бағалау қағидасы басшылыққа алынды. Нәтижесінде 1913-1918 жылдары жарық көрген «Қазақ» газетінің сандарынан қазақ-түрік байланыстарына қатысты ауқымды деректік ақпарат жинақталды. Зерттеу жұмысының нәтижесі ретінде «Қазақ» газетінде жарияланған Балқан соғысы кезеңіндегі Осман империясында орын алған билік үшін күрес, I-II Балқан соғысының нәтижелері талданып, ұлттық басылым деректері негізінде ғылыми қорытындылар жасалды. Негізгі дереккөзін «Қазақ» газетінің басылымы құрайды.

Түйін сөздер: «Қазақ» газеті, Осман империясы, I және II Балқан соғыстары, Орталық Азия, түркі тілдес мемлекеттер, ұлттық баспасөз.

Бұл зерттеу жұмысы Қазақстан Республикасы ғылым және жоғары білім министрлігінің Ғылым комитетімен қаржыландырды. (Грант № AP19676634)

К. Базарбаев*, Э. Акдениз, Х. Турсун, Э. Зулпыхарова
Международный казахско-турецкий университет имени Х.А. Ясави. Казахстан, г. Туркестан
*e-mail: kanat.bazarbayev@ayu.edu.kz

Сведения о Балканских войнах, опубликованные в газете «Казах»

Содержание статьи обусловлено необходимостью углубленного изучения данных, освещающих Балканские войны в Османской империи, опубликованных в рубрике "Новости из-за рубежа" газеты «Казах» в 1912-1913 гг. Основная цель исследования - научно раскрыть историю казахско-турецких политических и культурных отношений в начале XX века на основе данных, опубликованных в газете "Казах". В связи с этим в статье рассматривается и систематизируется информация о Балканских войнах между Османской империей и Болгарией, Черногорией, Сербией и Грецией, на конкретных примерах обобщается отношение национальной интеллигенции к войне в Османской империи, которая была опубликована в издании газеты "Казах", освещаются новости газеты о Балканских войнах, информация по теме войны применительно к казахской степи рассматривается как новизна. При разработке тематической идеи руководствовались принципом оценки исторических событий и явлений с точки зрения национальных интересов. В результате была собрана исчерпывающая документальная информация о казахско-турецких отношениях из номеров газеты "Казах", выходящих в 1913-1918 гг. В результате исследования были проанализированы Балканская война в Османской империи, итоги борьбы за власть в период I-II Балканской войны, опубликованные в газете "Казах", и сделаны научные выводы на основе данных, полученных из национального издания. Основным источником является издание газеты "Казах".

Ключевые слова: Газета «Казах», Османская империя, I и II Балканские войны, Центральная Азия, тюркоязычные государства, национальная пресса.

Данное исследование финансируется Комитетом науки Министерства науки и высшего образования Республики Казахстан. (Грант № AP19676634)

Introduction

The "Kazakh" newspaper, founded by Kazakh intellectuals and sustained by the financial contributions of the Kazakh populace, stands as a significant chronicle of pivotal events in the waning days of the Ottoman Empire. Within its pages, a treasure trove of historical insights can be gleaned, providing a window into a multitude of political occurrences that transpired during the twilight of the Ottoman Empire. From the newspaper's news articles, readers can access a wealth of information pertaining to diverse political developments marking the closing chapter of the Ottoman Empire. This encompasses a broad spectrum of topics, including the theaters of engagement in which the Ottoman Empire was embroiled during the Balkan Wars, the era characterized by Jasturk rule, and a comprehensive account of various international conferences and diplomatic negotiations. The early 20th century witnessed the Ottoman Empire grappling with immense pressure from European powerhouse nations, resulting in the swift loss of considerable territorial holdings. This tumultuous period, marked by shifting political dynamics, led to a temporary interruption in relations between Turkey and Turkic-speaking countries, impeding communication channels. However, the "Kazakh" newspaper assumes profound significance in

illuminating the bonds of kinship that connect Turkey and Turkic-speaking nations. The "Kazakh" newspaper holds a distinguished place in history as a publication that played a pivotal role in rekindling shared values among brotherly peoples. It accomplished this feat by elucidating historical documents that affirm the Turkish people of Anatolia and the Turkic-speaking communities of Central Asia as kindred entities who empathize with each other's trials and tribulations. Simultaneously, the "Kazakh" newspaper serves as an invaluable repository of crucial data pertaining to the political, military, and economic history of the Ottoman Empire's final era. It achieves this by presenting historical documents that shed light on the interconnected destinies of related peoples. This invaluable resource contributes to the scholarly discourse by facilitating the dissemination of significant historical documents related to kindred peoples through its pages.

Materials and methods

The main source of our research on the topic was limited to the materials of the national press. In this regard, we used the method of synchronicity, as we followed not the history of the Balkan War, but its reflection in the historical knowledge of the Kazakh public. In the study of the history of the Balkan War,

this approach is the most optimal for determining the cause-and-effect relationships of the events that connect with each other and the conclusions concerning the reflection in the Kazakh press of the political, social situation of the Ottoman Empire of the early twentieth century through functional analysis of each event. By analysing the historical events presented in the newspaper publications in chronological sequence, we get an opportunity to form a model of the evolution of the formation of historical cognition. In the factual analysis of the material published in the newspaper "Kazak" we also applied source studies and historiographical approaches to the analysis. The historiographical analysis of studies in Turkish in this direction gave clarity to the problem.

In our analysis of news articles featured in the "Kazakh" newspaper, we drew upon the scholarship of other authors, particularly referencing Cevdet Küçük "Balkan War". This work notably focuses on the political antecedents leading up to the Balkan War, highlighting the Ottoman Empire's significant territorial losses in Rumelia following the Treaty of Berlin – a landmark event at the conclusion of the conflict (Küçük, 1992: 23). In his research, the foreign scholar Richard Hall highlights the Balkan countries' preparations for war against the Ottoman Empire prior to the outbreak of hostilities in 1912. According to his findings, a significant portion of Bulgarian military forces began to mobilize along the borders of Thrace as part of a specific strategic plan in the lead-up to the conflict (Hall, 2000:23). As outlined in the research conducted by Fahir Armaoğlu, the author asserts that the actions undertaken by Russia played a pivotal role in catalyzing the formation of an alliance among the Balkan states against the Ottoman Empire. This alliance unfolded in several stages: initially, on March 13, 1912, agreements were forged between Bulgaria and Serbia. Subsequently, on May 29, 1912, Bulgaria and Greece entered into similar accords. Finally, on September 27, 1912, an alliance was solidified between Montenegro and Serbia (Armaoğlu, 2016:8). In his study on the Balkan War, Reşat Ekrem provides a comprehensive overview of the political developments that unfolded between the Balkan countries and the Ottoman Empire. Within the scope of his work, Ekrem offers his own assessments and analyses of these events, offering valuable insights into the dynamics of this historical period (Ekrem, 1934:244). When addressing the Balkan crisis and delving into the complexities of the events that unfolded in London, it is paramount to make referen-

ce to Yusuf Hikmet Bayur's publication, "Balkan Wars". This source not only furnishes invaluable data but also offers insights into certain clandestine aspects encountered during these events, notably by elucidating the agreements brokered in London (Bayur, 1999:9). The "Kazakh" newspaper extensively covers the Balkan wars and concurrently references numerous locations where these conflicts unfolded. In the pursuit of our study, the scientific work "Political History 1789-1939" authored by Ahmet Eyicil played a pivotal role. His scientific work contributed to determining the current use of these place names discussed in this study and which state borders these places fall into (Eyicil, 2005:223-224).

Research and results

The "Foreign News" section of the "Kazakh" newspaper emerges as a crucial repository of information concerning the contemporary political landscape within the Ottoman Empire. In the course of our research, we meticulously gathered news articles spanning the closing era of the Ottoman Empire, as published in the pages of the Kazakh newspaper. Our study delved into the perspective of the Kazakh people towards the Ottoman Empire and the manner in which political events transpiring within the empire were presented. This exploration provided valuable insights into the Balkan War and the intricacies of the power struggle characterizing this period. Moreover, we elucidated how the "Kazakh" newspaper, while reporting on the Balkan War, conveyed the perspectives and actions of the Ottoman Empire to the Kazakh populace. Consequently, we unveiled how the activities of the Ottoman Empire during the First World War were depicted within the pages of the "Kazakh Gazeta", as well as the specific issues and themes that were addressed in this context.

In the inaugural issue of the "Kazakh" newspaper, a comprehensive account of the conflict between the Ottoman Empire and the Balkan countries is presented. The Balkan states entered this war with a strategic alliance, choosing from a selection of five different weapons. The Ottoman Empire, on the other hand, was caught off guard, unprepared for the united front that their enemies would join forces and launch an ambush. During this period, the political landscape of the empire was characterized by instability. On one front, there was an ongoing war with Italy, while on the other, a change in leadership and internal turmoil prevailed. Exploiting this vulnerability, the Balkan nations launched a multi-pronged offensive, capturing numerous cities in the process.

Throughout the conflict, Turkish forces displayed commendable bravery in their defense, despite being outnumbered and lacking sufficient weaponry. This was partly due to recent administrative changes within the empire, which had led to the dispersion of a significant portion of their military personnel. The Balkan coalition had mobilized an impressive force of 300,000 troops for this war, whereas the Ottoman forces could only send 150,000 soldiers. On October 4, Bulgaria, Serbia, and Greece jointly declared war. Consequently, by October 10, the Turkish forces suffered defeats in the battles of Kyrykkale and Kumanovo leading to their retreat and the abandonment of weapons. Serbian troops captured Skopje on October 13, and a significant confrontation occurred on October 16-19 along the Ergene River, resulting in heavy losses for the Ottoman army, which eventually retreated to Chatalja. Thessaloniki fell to Greek forces on October 26, and another battle took place near the monastery on November 3-4, during which the Turkish army faced further defeat, with many soldiers taken as prisoners.

Hence, in the early stages of the war, the Ottoman military encountered several setbacks and was forced to retreat. The combined forces of the Balkan allies applied relentless pressure from all sides, gradually advancing toward the outskirts of Istanbul. Montenegrin forces made repeated attempts to capture the city of Shkodra, albeit without success. For the Bulgarians, the conquest of Adrianopolis held significant strategic importance. Although the Greeks besieged Ban, they were unable to take the city. Consequently, due to their inability to capture Chatalja, the Bulgarians, who could ill-afford a protracted conflict, opted to seek a negotiated settlement.

The kingdoms of Bulgaria, Serbia, and Montenegro initially expressed their willingness to temporarily halt hostilities and engage in negotiations. With the intent to conduct these talks in London, they dispatched their representatives there. However, this diplomatic meeting failed to yield any tangible results. While the Balkan countries asserted their victory in the war and their claim to the majority of the Ottoman Empire's territories, the Ottoman state vehemently declared its determination not to cede a single inch of land. Particularly, the dispute over the city of Adrianople became a focal point of contention, as the Bulgarians insisted on its capture, whereas the Ottomans staunchly maintained that this city would never be surrendered to the enemy, considering it of utmost importance. As the situation grew increasingly complex, European

leaders and allies of the Balkan countries began exerting pressure on the Ottoman state. In response to these mounting pressures, Kamil Pasha, the chief vizier of the Sultan, engaged in consultations with the government and opted to cede some territory to the Balkan nations in a bid to reach a settlement. However, this decision did not gain approval from the Sultan, and it faced resistance from the populace. Subsequently, Kamil Pasha was overthrown through a coup, and the Minister of War, Nazim Pasha, was executed, while certain military personnel were dismissed. Following these developments, the Bulgarians contended that they could not reach an agreement with the Ottoman leadership and resumed hostilities (*Qazaq gazeti №1*, 1913: 11-12).

In the second issue of the "Kazakh" newspaper, it is reported that the war between the Ottoman Empire and the Balkan states is being waged on four different fronts simultaneously. The first theater of the war was initiated with the objective of capturing the city of Edirne (Adrianopolis). Approximately 60 thousand enemy troops laid siege to the city. Despite repeated Bulgarian assaults, Edirne held steadfast. In the later stages of the conflict, Turkish forces mounted a resolute defense and managed to repel the Bulgarians. The second front of the war unfolded at Chatalja. Here, Ottoman troops exhibited great valor, forcing the Bulgarians out of the fortress and gradually advancing their positions. Following an intense battle on February 3-4, Turkish forces succeeded in capturing 1,200 Bulgarian soldiers.

The third front of the war centered around the city of Shkoder. Despite the Montenegrin government's extensive efforts to capture the city, Turkish troops emerged victorious. The fourth theater of conflict involved the Greeks besieging the city of Ioannina. Cavit Pasha's army engaged in a fierce battle with the Greek forces and managed to repel their advance from the city. Thus, Turkish forces valiantly defended significant cities against the enemy. Nevertheless, the "Kazakh" newspaper noted that challenges stemming from insufficient funds, weaponry, and ammunition posed significant issues for the army (*Qazaq gazeti №1*, 1913: 21-22). In the second issue of the "Kazakh" newspaper, dated February 10, it was reported that the Ottoman army was actively engaged on four different fronts. According to a newspaper report from that week, Ottoman troops originating from Gallipoli and the Tekfur region had proceeded to Chatalja, where they united their forces. Turkish forces consolidated their strength in Chatalja, diligently preparing for a significant battle. In this impending conflict, Turkish soldiers were

resolute, prepared to sacrifice their lives to prevent the city of Edirne from falling into the hands of the enemy. The Bulgarian commanders, recognizing the difficulty in capturing Edirne, commenced shelling the city with artillery power. They then attempted to bring in war machines equipped with 36 formidable cannons from Serbia, but adverse weather conditions, including heavy snowfall, hindered their effective use of these cannons in battle. Meanwhile, the Montenegrin government, having suffered more than 15,000 casualties, decided to cease the bombardment of the city of Shkodra entirely. Their only option was to await assistance from the Serbs. King Nikola of Montenegro, who had been leading the army, returned to the capital under the pretext of illness, leaving a Serbian general to assume command (Qazaq gazeti №1, 1913:23). According to the information published in the 4th issue of "Kazakh" newspaper, it is said that the war situation in Edirne is quite stable. The Turkish army stationed there had swelled to approximately 40,000 soldiers. Turkish forces ventured beyond the fortress and engaged Bulgarian troops, inflicting some losses upon them. In Shkodra, where the Montenegrin army faced imminent peril, Serbia dispatched reinforcements consisting of 35,000 soldiers and 40 artillery armored fighting vehicles. Nevertheless, the Serbs did not manage to achieve significant results. It was reported that the Turkish forces had established a robust defensive line, resulting in the death of 1,200 Serbian soldiers. In response, both the Serbian and Montenegrin governments combined their efforts, sending an additional 27,000 soldiers as reinforcements to capture Shkodra. In a separate report in today's edition of the "Kazakh" newspaper, it was stated that Greek forces had triumphed over Turkish troops, laying siege to and subsequently occupying the city of Yanya. The Greek military had also captured 32,000 Turkish soldiers and seized 132 artillery guns in Ioannina. According to the newspaper's account, approximately 80,000 Turkish soldiers had been captured by the Greeks since the onset of the war. In the fourth issue of the "Kazakh" newspaper published on March 1, it was reported that several influential European nations, including Russia, Germany, Italy, France, Austria, and England, expressed a collective desire for the Ottoman Empire to negotiate a peace agreement with the Balkan countries. Ambassadors from these countries conveyed this message to the Ottoman government, urging them to pursue peace with the Balkan nations. In response, the government officials of the Balkan countries indicated that they would engage in consultations

among themselves before providing a formal response. This development raised questions about the larger political dynamics at play involving the major powers. The outcome of these negotiations would undoubtedly have a significant impact on the future of the Ottoman state. It was apparent that, even if a peace agreement were to be reached, the conditions posed certain challenges. These conditions included the demand for Edirne to be handed over without further conflict and the expansion of the Bulgarian border to the Ottoman Sea. However, it was equally clear that the Ottoman government was unlikely to acquiesce to these terms, particularly regarding the surrender of Edirne to the enemy.

According to the "Tarzhiman" newspaper, just a month ago, the Ottoman Empire was facing significant challenges on the battlefield due to a shortage of troops and financial resources. Despite these difficulties, the Jasturkian government refused to surrender Edirne to the enemy and continued to put up a determined resistance. Presently, Turkish troops were engaged in fierce battles in key locations such as Edirne, Chatalja, Bolayr, and Shkodra, all in an effort to defend their homeland to the best of their abilities. Given this situation, it appears questionable whether the Ottoman government would be inclined to accept the idea of reconciliation proposed by the major European powers. The newspaper suggests that the ongoing dedication and bravery displayed by Turkish forces in defense of their territory might influence the government's stance on potential peace negotiations (Qazaq gazeti №4, 1913:41-42). In the material published in the 6th issue of the newspaper, the Bulgarians shelled the city of Edirne with armored artillery. Despite their persistent efforts, the Bulgarian troops were unable to capture Edirne on March 10. Shukru Pasha, the commander of Edirne, reported via telegraph that around 4,000 people had lost their lives due to the Bulgarian attacks. He also expressed his inability to defend the city without additional troops from Istanbul. By March 21, Bulgarian forces had completely surrounded Edirne from all four sides. In an attempt to prevent their weapons and supplies from falling into enemy hands, Turkish troops set fire to the city, resulting in a devastating blaze. The latest news reported in the newspaper confirmed that the Bulgarians had successfully occupied Edirne.

Two days later, the Bulgarians also captured Chatalka after a fierce battle. Following their victory over the Ottoman Empire and the expulsion of Turks from the Balkans, the Balkan states sought to acquire and divide the remaining Ottoman ter-

ritories among themselves. However, the Austrian government, advocating for Albanian interests, did not support this plan. With Austria's backing, both Muslim and Christian Albanians began to envision the creation of an independent "Albanian State". In a subsequent newspaper report, it was revealed that representatives of the major European powers meeting in London would determine the borders of the Albanian state. Amid this discussion, the fate of Shkodra, which had been under siege throughout the conflict, was a point of contention. The members of the Majlis in London decided not to hand over Shkodra to the Balkan states but to heed the words of the Austrian ambassadors and designate Shkodra as the capital of Albania. Montenegro and Serbia had sought to annex Shkodra to Montenegro, but their proposal was disregarded in favor of the decision made in London. As for the future of "Albania" and its prospective ruler, it remained uncertain. Sixteen individuals had nominated themselves as candidates for the presidency of Albania, including Turkish and Egyptian princes. Austria issued a strict order to the Montenegrin government, instructing them not to bombard the city of Shkodra with heavy artillery. The Austrian government emphasized that failure to comply with this requirement could result in the Austrian army launching an invasion of Montenegro. The Ottoman Empire was gradually losing its territories during this turbulent period. As the Jasturks assumed power, former leaders of the empire began to seek refuge in places like Afghanistan. It's rumored that some of these exiled leaders, after engaging in various confrontations in cities like Paris, London, and Cairo, harbored hostilities towards Turkey and devised unconventional plans. Notably, Kamil Pasha, the former head of the Turkish government, had found sanctuary in Egypt. He convened with delegates from across the Arabian region, and there were discussions about separating Arabia from the Ottoman Empire. It's worth noting that Britain was supportive of such a move, advocating for the detachment of Arabia from Turkey's control. The Kazakh newspaper raises a pertinent question in this context: Can the actions of the Turkish elders, who were apparently willing to cede the city of Mecca, where the Quran was revealed, and Arabia – a region considered a pillar of Islam – to the rule of a Christian king, be considered wise? (Qazaq gazetі №6, 1913:59-60). In its 11th issue, the newspaper announced the conclusion of the war between the Ottoman Empire and the Balkan countries. The outcome of the war was a significant loss for the Ottoman Empire, as the Balkan countries managed

to capture numerous territories formerly under Ottoman control, effectively pushing the Turks out of Europe. Today, Istanbul remains as the sole Ottoman stronghold in Europe, with many of the once-beautiful Ottoman cities now in the hands of the enemy. Only the fortress of Chatalka still remained in Ottoman possession, while the city of Shkodra, fiercely defended since the war's beginning, also fell into enemy hands. Following the Balkan countries' achievement of their territorial objectives, they ceased hostilities, claiming there was no need for further fighting. Subsequently, after negotiations involving the major powers, it was clarified that all the lands captured during the war would become the property of the Balkan countries, and the Ottoman Empire would be obligated to cover the war costs.

Throughout this period, it became evident that the major powers had never looked favorably upon the Ottoman Empire. After the Balkan countries' victory, it seemed as though the plan to weaken the Ottomans and dismember their empire had been realized. The Ottoman state, which once held sway over Europe, now found itself bereft of its European territories, rendered powerless. It was as if the servant had risen against the master and evicted them from the house. The issue of dividing the territories seized from the Ottomans among the Balkan countries had not been previously discussed, leading to potential complications and conflicts among them. The leaders of these countries had convened to discuss this matter, a situation that the "Kazakh" newspaper speculated might even lead to a new war (Qazaq gazetі №11, 1913:113). According to reports in the newspaper "Tanin," the agreement has been signed under challenging circumstances for the Turks, and it's noted that the state is teetering on the brink of disintegration if they don't display courage. The "Novoe Vremya" (New Time) newspaper reports that the treaty between the Ottomans and Bulgaria has concluded, eliminating the immediate threat between them. However, it is suggested that the Turks may not disband their army. The Balkan countries, it seems, are waiting for the end of the alphabet (an idiomatic expression implying they are waiting indefinitely), and they have not demobilized their forces. The Turks appear to have understood that, as long as the Balkan countries have unresolved territorial claims, they are unlikely to disperse their troops and risk fighting among themselves. As of now, there is no conflict between Bulgaria, Greece, and Serbia. Still, it is implied that if they do engage in hostilities, the Turks hope their own aspirations might be fulfilled (Qazaq gazetі №16, 1913:163).

The Second Balkan War in the “Kazakh” Newspaper

It's clear from the information provided that during the Second Balkan War, the Balkan nations were in conflict with each other, and the Ottoman Empire closely monitored these events. The Ottoman Empire saw an opportunity to regain some of its lost territories from the First Balkan War, especially in its relations with Bulgaria. According to the “Kazakh” newspaper published on June 19, 1913, it was suggested that the Ottoman Turks might initiate a war against Bulgaria, which was situated on their border. This led to preparations for such a conflict, including intensive military training and the return of troops to Istanbul. The population in Istanbul was enthusiastic and supportive of the war effort, and the Minister of Military Affairs was involved in overseeing troop placement. Troops near Chatalca were also prepared for potential conflict. This information gives insight into the political and military dynamics of the time, as well as the Ottoman Empire's strategic considerations during the Second Balkan War (Qazaq gazetі №20, 1913: 163-169). The newspaper report from July 10, 1913, indicates that the Ottoman Empire declared war on Bulgaria on July 7, 1913, with the objective of recapturing Adrianople. This declaration came at a time when Bulgaria was already engaged in a conflict with other Balkan countries. Therefore, Bulgaria found itself in the challenging position of having to simultaneously wage war against the Ottoman Empire. This situation reflects the complex and volatile dynamics of the Second Balkan War, with multiple regional powers vying for control over territories in the Balkans (Qazaq gazetі №20, 1913: 209). In a news report dated July 16, 1913, it is stated that Enver Pasha, who held the position of Minister of War in the Ottoman Empire, achieved a significant military feat. He and his troops marched an impressive 80 kilometers in a single day and managed to capture Adrianopolis (Edirne) and Kyrkkilise. This is a remarkable accomplishment in the context of the Second Balkan War and demonstrates the determination and effectiveness of the Ottoman military leadership during this period (Akman, 2006:89-90). On July 23, 1913, the “Kazakh” newspaper reported a significant development that highlighted the perceived injustice towards the Ottoman Empire by the European superpowers. While the Balkan countries were allowed to claim territories from Bulgaria, when it came to the Ottoman Empire's attempts to regain its lost lands in the Balkans, the European powers

actively prevented this. This event underscores the complex and often unfair geopolitical dynamics of the time, with the European powers playing a role in shaping the outcomes of conflicts in the Balkans.

Despite the efforts of European powers to prevent the Ottoman Empire from recapturing its lost territories from Bulgaria, they were unsuccessful in their attempts. The European states had insisted that the Ottoman Empire break the Treaty of London, which had been signed during the First Balkan War. However, this effort faced obstacles, including Romania's failure to implement the Treaty of St. Petersburg. The European powers, unable to carry out their plan, devised a strategy to reconcile the warring Balkan states and defeat the Ottoman Empire definitively, preventing it from rebelling again. However, this plan also faced challenges. The “Kazakh” newspaper suggests that if the Balkan states were to reconcile, Bulgaria might not accept this treaty, adding complexity to the situation. This highlights the intricate geopolitical dynamics of the time, where various interests and alliances played a significant role in shaping the outcomes of these conflicts (Qazaq gazetі №23, 1913:232). The news published on July 23, 1913, suggested that positive changes were occurring within the Ottoman Empire. However, by September 14, 1913, it was reported that the unity among the Balkan states had dissolved, signifying the end of the friendly relations that had characterized the First Balkan War. This shift in dynamics among the Balkan nations reflected the evolving geopolitical landscape and the challenges they faced in maintaining a united front after the initial conflict (Qazaq gazetі №23, 1913:304). Upon the successful recapture of Adrianopolis, Enver Pasha conveyed the news of this victory to Sheikh-ul-Islam Esad Efendi in Istanbul. Subsequently, the first order of business in Adrianopolis was the grand reopening of a mosque, a revered place of worship for Muslims. A symbol of this momentous occasion was the replacement of the cross on the mosque's minaret with the crescent moon, signifying the city's liberation and return to its Islamic heritage. The first prayer held in the mosque after its reopening was met with overwhelming joy and celebration among both the local population and the victorious soldiers, as documented by the Kazakh newspaper. This event not only represented a military triumph but also held profound cultural and religious significance (Qazaq gazetі №24, 1913:247). In the 25th issue of the “Kazakh” newspaper, published a week later, it was reported that the leaders of the Ottoman Empire's government had convened meetings

in European cities to initiate negotiations for the formal recognition of the territories recovered from Bulgaria. Some of these leaders traveled to Vienna, while the others went to St. Petersburg. However, the Russian government did not receive the Ottoman government representatives who arrived in St. Petersburg from Istanbul. This news article suggested that the Russian government was still determined to hold onto Adrianople (Edirne), as Russia had consistently supported Bulgaria. Great Britain, initially aligned with Russia, had shifted its policy after failing to prevent the Ottoman Empire from regaining control over the Balkans. Consequently, apart from Russia, the major European powers were unable to reach a consensus on the issue of Adrianople. The "Kazakh" newspaper emphasized that these developments could work in favor of the Ottoman Turks, especially since the Bulgarian government was militarily disadvantaged compared to the Ottoman Empire. The situation seemed to provide an opportunity for the Ottomans to achieve their objectives (Qazaq gazeti №25, 1913:251). Recently, the "Kazakh" newspaper published statistics regarding Muslim casualties in the Balkan Wars, which were sourced from the "Tan" (Morning) newspaper in Paris and the Ottoman newspaper "Tanin". According to the "Tan" newspaper, it was reported that 250,000 Muslims lost their lives in the Balkan War. However, the Ottoman press and the newspaper "Tanin" contested these figures, asserting that the actual number of Muslims who had become martyrs in the Balkan Wars reached a much higher toll, specifically 500,000. These differing figures underscore the magnitude of the human tragedy and the discrepancies in reporting during this tumultuous period in Balkan history (Qazaq gazeti №24, 1913:241).

In the "Kazakh" newspaper dated July 31, 1913, it is reported that after the Ottoman Empire recaptured Adrianopolis (Edirne) and Kyrkkilise (Kırklareli) from Bulgaria, there was a period of uncertainty and lack of agreement between the two countries. During this time, the Ottoman army took several precautionary measures to safeguard the newly regained territories. The newspaper described the Ottoman army's stance as resolute, with a determination not to yield the conquered lands easily. To secure these territories, they constructed a formidable fortress in Adrianopolis following the appointment of Enver Pasha as its commander, and Fethi Bey was tasked with protecting Kyrkkilise. These efforts demonstrated the Ottoman Empire's commitment to defending its recent gains (Qazaq gazeti №24, 1913:238). Hence, during the Second

Balkan War, the Bulgarian state, in a weakened position, was unable to reclaim the territories taken by the Ottoman Empire. Consequently, the Bulgarian government initiated negotiations, aiming to secure the Ottoman Empire's stability, following the signing of the Treaty of Bucharest (Hall, 2003:16). In the August 25, 1913 issue of the Kazakh newspaper, a significant article regarding the Treaty of Istanbul between the Ottoman Empire and Bulgaria was featured. Although the news doesn't delve into the full details of the agreement, it does mention several places that the Ottoman Empire decided to retain control over. Furthermore, the "Kazakh" newspaper reports that because Bulgaria was unable to recover its territories within the Ottoman Empire, it dispatched its heads of state to Istanbul for negotiations. According to the agreement, the entire Adriatic region (Edirne), including the vicinity of the Merich River, remained under Ottoman control (Acaroğlu, 2006:312-313).

Conclusion

The "Kazakh" newspaper, in its subsequent issue, emphasizes that the Balkan Wars occurred during a period when the Ottoman Empire was severely weakened. At that time, the Empire was facing multiple challenges. It was engaged in the Tripoli War, dealing with Italian efforts to occupy Istanbul, and grappling with the resurgence of Albanian rebellions. Additionally, conflicts among army officers further complicated the situation. Therefore, the newspaper reports that the Ottoman Empire, already in a precarious state, was ill-prepared for the outbreak of the Balkan Wars. The "Kazakh" newspaper suggests that the empire, despite some notable successes on certain fronts, ultimately could not resist the peoples under its control and was forced to relinquish the Balkans, which it had held for centuries. The newspaper underscores that the Ottoman Empire not only faced the newly independent states in the Balkans but also contended with the support these states received from European powers like Russia and England. According to the newspaper, the empire's inability to achieve significant positive results during the entire war period was due to a combination of these factors. The extensive coverage of the Ottoman Empire's political situation in the "Kazakh" newspaper generated significant interest among the Kazakh people, shedding light on the complexities and challenges faced by the empire during this tumultuous period. As a result of our research, we found that this national publication has

already formed the Kazakh public's initial ideas about the history of the Balkan War on the territory of the Ottoman Empire.

References

- Akman H. (2006). Paylaşılmayan Balkanlar [The Unshared Balkans]. İQ Kültür Sanat Yayıncılık, İstanbul, s. 89-90.
- Acaroğlu M.T. (2006). Balkanlar'da Türkçe Yer Adları Klavuzu [Guide to Turkish Place Names in the Balkans]. İQ Kültür Sanat Yayıncılık, İstanbul, s. 312-313.
- Armaoğlu F. (2016). 19. Yüzyıl Siyasî Tarihi 1789-1914 [Century Political History 1789-1914]. Timaş Yayınları, İstanbul, s.638-641; Tasav, age., s.8.
- Bayur Y.H. (1999). Balkan Savaşları Birinci Balkan Savaşı (1912) [Balkan Wars First Balkan War (1912)]. Yeni Gün Haber Ajansı Basın ve Yayıncılık, s. 9.
- Ekrem R. (1934). Osmanlı Muahedeleri ve Kapitülasyonlar 1300-1920 ve Lozan Muahedesi 24 Temmuz 1923 [Ottoman Treaties and Capitulations 1300-1920 and the Treaty of Lausanne 24 July 1923]. Türkiye Matbaası, İstanbul, s.244.
- Eyicil A. (2005). Siyasî Tarih 1789-1939 [Political History 1789-1939]. Gün Yayınları, Ankara, s.223-224.
- Hall R.C. (2000). The Balkan Wars, 1912– 1913 Prelude to the First World War, London and New York: Routledge, p. 23.
- Hall R.C. (2003). Balkan Savaşları 1912-1913 (trc. M. Tanju Akad) [Balkan Wars 1912-1913 (trs. M. Tanju Akad)]. Homer Kitabevi., İstanbul, s. 16.
- Küçük C. (1992). «Balkan Savaşı», Türkiye Diyanet Vakfı İslam Ansiklopesi [«Balkan War», Turkish Religious Foundation Islamic Encyclopedia]. Cilt 5, Ali Rıza Başkan Güzel Sanatlar Matbaası, İstanbul, Cilt 5, s.23.
- «Qazaq gazetі». (1913). Sırtkı habarlar [External messages] //№1. 2 Feb. b.11-12
- «Qazaq gazetі». (1913). Sırtkı habarlar [External messages] //№1. 2 Feb. b.21-22
- «Qazaq gazetі». (1913). Sırtkı habarlar [External messages] //№1. 2 Feb. b.23
- «Qazaq gazetі». (1913). Sırtkı habarlar [External messages] //№4. 1 March. b.41-42
- «Qazaq gazetі». (1913). Sırtkı habarlar [External messages] //№6. 16 March. b.59-60
- «Qazaq gazetі». (1913). Sırtkı habarlar [External messages] //№11. 21 April. b.113
- «Qazaq gazetі». (1913). Sırtkı habarlar [External messages] //№16. 31 May. b.163
- «Qazaq gazetі». (1913). Sırtkı habarlar [External messages] //№20. 19 June. b.160.
- «Qazaq gazetі». (1913). Sırtkı habarlar [External messages] //№20. 10 July. b.209.
- «Qazaq gazetі». (1913). Sırtkı habarlar [External messages] //№23. 23 July. b.232.
- «Qazaq gazetі». (1913). Sırtkı habarlar [External messages] //№23. 14 September. b. 304.
- «Qazaq gazetі». (1913). Sırtkı habarlar [External messages] //№24. 16 September. b. 247.
- «Qazaq gazetі». (1913). Sırtkı habarlar [External messages] //№25. 8 August. b. 251.
- «Qazaq gazetі». (1913). Sırtkı habarlar [External messages] //№24. 31 July. b. 241.
- «Qazaq gazetі». (1913). Sırtkı habarlar [External messages] //№24. 29 July. b. 238.

Әдебиеттер

- Akman H. (2006). Paylaşılmayan Balkanlar, İQ Kültür Sanat Yayıncılık, İstanbul, s. 89-90.
- Acaroğlu M.T. (2006). Balkanlar'da Türkçe Yer Adları Klavuzu, İQ Kültür Sanat Yayıncılık, İstanbul, s. 312-31.
- Armaoğlu F. (2016). 19. Yüzyıl Siyasî Tarihi 1789-1914, Timaş Yayınları, İstanbul, s.638-641; Tasav, age., s.8.
- Bayur Y.H. (1999). Balkan Savaşları Birinci Balkan Savaşı(1912), Yeni Gün Haber Ajansı Basın ve Yayıncılık, s. 9.
- Ekrem R. (1934). Osmanlı Muahedeleri ve Kapitülasyonlar 1300-1920 ve Lozan Muahedesi 24 Temmuz 1923, Türkiye Matbaası, İstanbul, s.244.
- Eyicil A. (2005). Siyasî Tarih 1789-1939, Gün Yayınları, Ankara, s.223-224.
- Hall R.C. (2000). The Balkan Wars, 1912– 1913 Prelude to the First World War, London and New York: Routledge, p. 23.
- Hall R.C. (2003). Balkan Savaşları 1912-1913 (trc. M. Tanju Akad), Homer Kitabevi., İstanbul, s. 16.
- Küçük C. (1992). «Balkan Savaşı», Türkiye Diyanet Vakfı İslam Ansiklopesi, Cilt 5, Ali Rıza Başkan Güzel Sanatlar Matbaası, İstanbul, Cilt 5, s.23.
- «Қазақ газеті». (1913). Сыртқы хабарлар // № 1. 2 ақпан. Б.11-12.
- «Қазақ газеті». (1913). Сыртқы хабарлар // № 1. 2 ақпан. Б.21-22.
- «Қазақ газеті». (1913). Сыртқы хабарлар // № 1. 2 ақпан. Б.23.
- «Қазақ газеті». (1913). Сыртқы хабарлар // № 4. 1 наурыз. Б.41-42.
- «Қазақ газеті». (1913). Сыртқы хабарлар // № 6. 16 наурыз. Б.59-60.
- «Қазақ газеті». (1913). Сыртқы хабарлар // № 11. 21 сәуір. Б.113.
- «Қазақ газеті». (1913). Сыртқы хабарлар // № 16. 31 мамыр. Б.163.
- «Қазақ газеті». (1913). Сыртқы хабарлар // №. 20. 19 июнь. Б. 160.
- «Қазақ газеті». (1913). Сыртқы хабарлар //№. 20. 10 июль.Б. 209.
- «Қазақ газеті». (1913). Сыртқы хабарлар //№. 23. 23 Июль. Б.232.

- «Қазақ газеті». (1913). Сыртқы хабарлар // №. 23.14 сентябрь. Б.304.
«Қазақ газеті». (1913). Сыртқы хабарлар // №. 24. 16 сентябрь. Б.247.
«Қазақ газеті». (1913). Сыртқы хабарлар //№. 25. 8 августь. Б.251.
«Қазақ газеті». (1913). Сыртқы хабарлар // №. 24. 31 июль. Б.241.
«Қазақ газеті». (1913). Сыртқы хабарлар // №. 24. 31 июль. Б.238.