

Mire Mladenovski

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# Balkan Wars

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Fight for Liberation of Conquest?"







**K**

- **Were Balkan Wars fought for liberation or conquering?**
  - **What was the significance of Balkan Wars?**
- 

**O**

:

1. What is the chronology of events?
  2. What were the expectations and justifications of Balkan Wars?
  3. How was the wars perceived?
  4. What are the consequences of Balkan wars?
- 



**T**

is about the Balkan Wars (1912 - 1913). Special attention is paid to the role of those involved in the war, with particular emphasis on the expectations and disappointments. This topic is sensitive and involve many Balkan countries. This is controversial topic because of different views on this historic event, and also very sensitive issue in this area. The main issue is whether these wars were for liberation or wars for conquests?

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**L**

:

1. Students will be able to put historical events in the time frame.
  2. They will develop the ability of critical thinking and source analyzing.
  3. Evaluation of historical events through multiperspective approach
  4. The students will recognize the relationship among countries and nations at that time, their expectations and disappointments during the Balkan wars. They will also understand how this event influenced peoples' lives.
- 



**A** :

- Acquiring a multi-perspective view on the Balkan Wars through analyzing variety of sources.
  - Opening a discussion on the expectations and disappointments from Balkan Wars.
  - Getting familiar with a political atmosphere during Balkan Wars and try to explain controversial reactions on the event
- 



**T**

Activity 1

Group Work - Each group receives the same set of materials to create a timeline.

Activity 2

Group Work – analysis of different types of sources and discussion.

Activity 3

Group Work – writing a newspaper article

Activity 4

Group Work - Sorting and determination of the documents and a discussion in an attempt to answer key questions



90  
minutes

## Activity 1

Each group (there are 4 or 5) receives the same set of materials to create a timeline.

## W

The task is to chronologically sort six significant events related to the Balkan wars. Each event must contain the date, title, written document, and visual source that refers to it.

In order to achieve this, all sources should be cut to pieces on the working paper (page 185 and 186). After that, they should be ranked on a blank paper. This would create a timeline of major events in the Balkan Wars.

This is group work and each group has the same task. Thereafter, each group will present the results of their work in front of the other.

## B

## W

## ?

TITLES	T B L	T L	T B		T B F W	I A
EARS	1912 - 1913	1912	1913	28 1912	30 M 1913	10 A 1913
TE TS	Balkan alliance is formed by a series of bilateral treaties concluded between the Balkan states of Bulgaria, Greece, Montenegro and Serbia, and directed against the Ottoman Empire, which at the time still controlled much of the Balkan peninsula.	The combatants were the victorious Balkan League (Serbia, Greece, Kingdom of Bulgaria, and Montenegro) and the defeated Ottoman Empire. Representing the Great Powers were Britain, Germany, Russia, Austria-Hungary, and Italy.		Bulgaria, Greece, Montenegro and Serbia attacked the Ottoman Empire, terminating its five-century rule in the Balkans in a seven-month campaign resulting in the Treaty of London.		
	<p>The assembly of eighty-three leaders meeting in Vlore in November 1912 declared Albania an independent country and set up a provisional government</p> <p>According to article II of the London treaty, Albania would be recognized as an autonomous state under the sovereignty of the Ottoman sultan.</p>	Bulgaria was dissatisfied over the division of the spoils in Macedonia. Their armies repulsed the Bulgarian offensive and counter-attacked penetrating into Bulgaria, while Romania and the Ottoman Empire took the opportunity to intervene against Bulgaria and make territorial gains. In the resulting Treaty of Bucharest, Bulgaria lost most of the territories it had gained in the First Balkan War.		Bulgaria was defeated by the combined forces of Serbia, Greece, and Romania. Bulgaria had unsuccessfully contested the distribution by its former allies of territory taken from the Turks during the First Balkan War (1912–13). According to the terms of the treaty, Bulgaria was granted a small portion of Macedonia and a strip of Aegean coastline including the port of Dedeğaç (Alexandroupolis). Serbia took northern and central Macedonia; Greece acquired southern Macedonia; and Romania was given southern		
PHOTOS						
	<a href="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:London_Peace_Treaty_Signing_30_May_1913.jpg">http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:London_Peace_Treaty_Signing_30_May_1913.jpg</a>			<a href="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:28nentor.jpg">http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:28nentor.jpg</a>		



## POSTERS



[http://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Balkan\\_League\\_poster.png](http://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Balkan_League_poster.png)

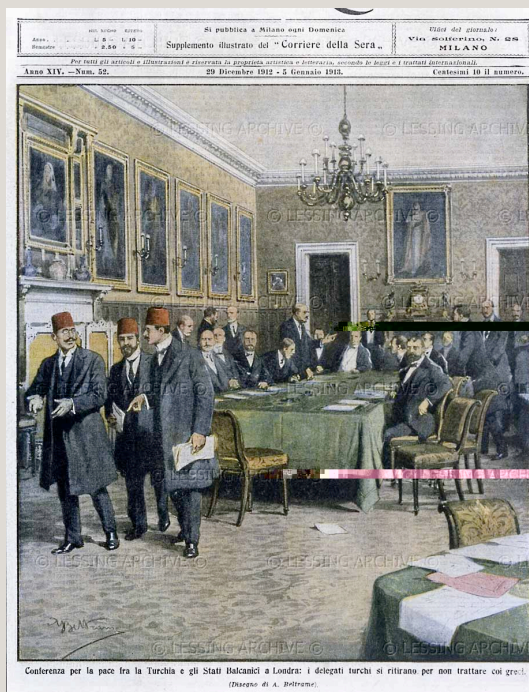


<http://www.robinsonlibrary.com/history/balkan/history/war1912.htm#UyWrqWBX4IM>

## CARTOON DRAWING



Teaching modern southeast european history, *Alternative education material, The Balkan Wars*, 2009, p. 106



Conferința pentru pacea între Turcia și statele balcanice la Londra: delegații turci și balcanice se retrag dintr-o discuție cu greu.  
(Desen de A. Belfrage)



# Activity 2

E

!

Documents for group I

W  
W ?

B

The task is to get through the review of documents, to find out the reasons for the war (justification and expectations). After that, each group should explain (in front of the other groups) justifications of wars. Followed by a discussion!

- I group work with a maps and statistics
- II group work with a cartoons
- III group work with official documents
- IV group work with unofficial documents

Source 1

OFFICIAL

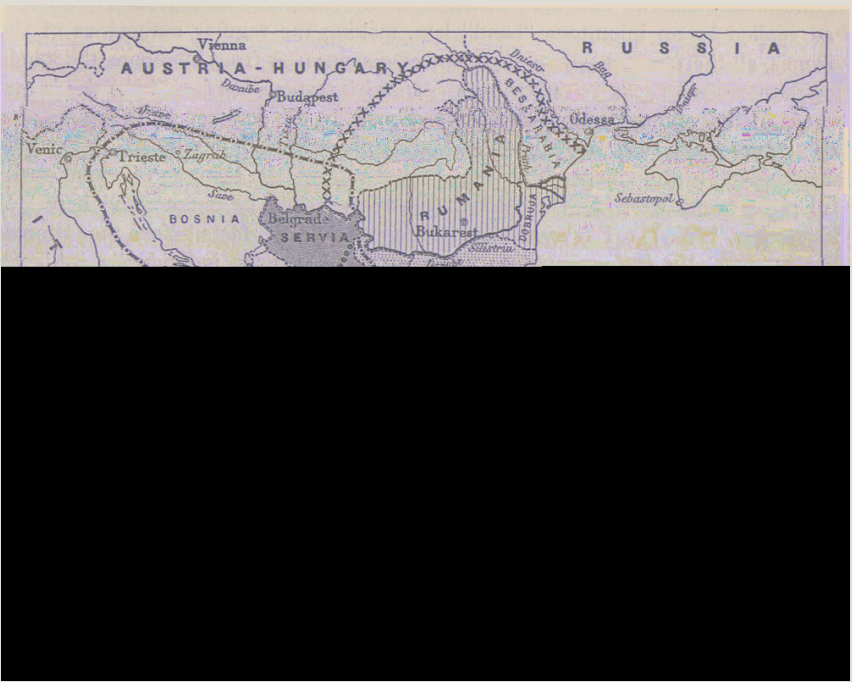
M

	BULGARIAN (Kantchev, 1900)	SERBIAN (Gopcevic, 1889)	GREEK (Delyani, 1904)
Turks	499 204	231 400	634 017
Bulgarians	1 181 336	57 600	332 162
Greeks	1 181 336	201 140	652 795
Albanians	128 711	165 620	--
Wallachian	80 767	69 665	25 101
Jews	67 840	64 645	53 147
Gypsies	54 557	28 730	8 911
Serbians	700	2 048 320	--
Mixed	16 407	3 500	18 685
TOTAL	2 258 224	2 870 620	1 724 818

Table created by author according to data taken from "Teaching modern southeast european history, Alternative education material, The Balkan Wars", 2009

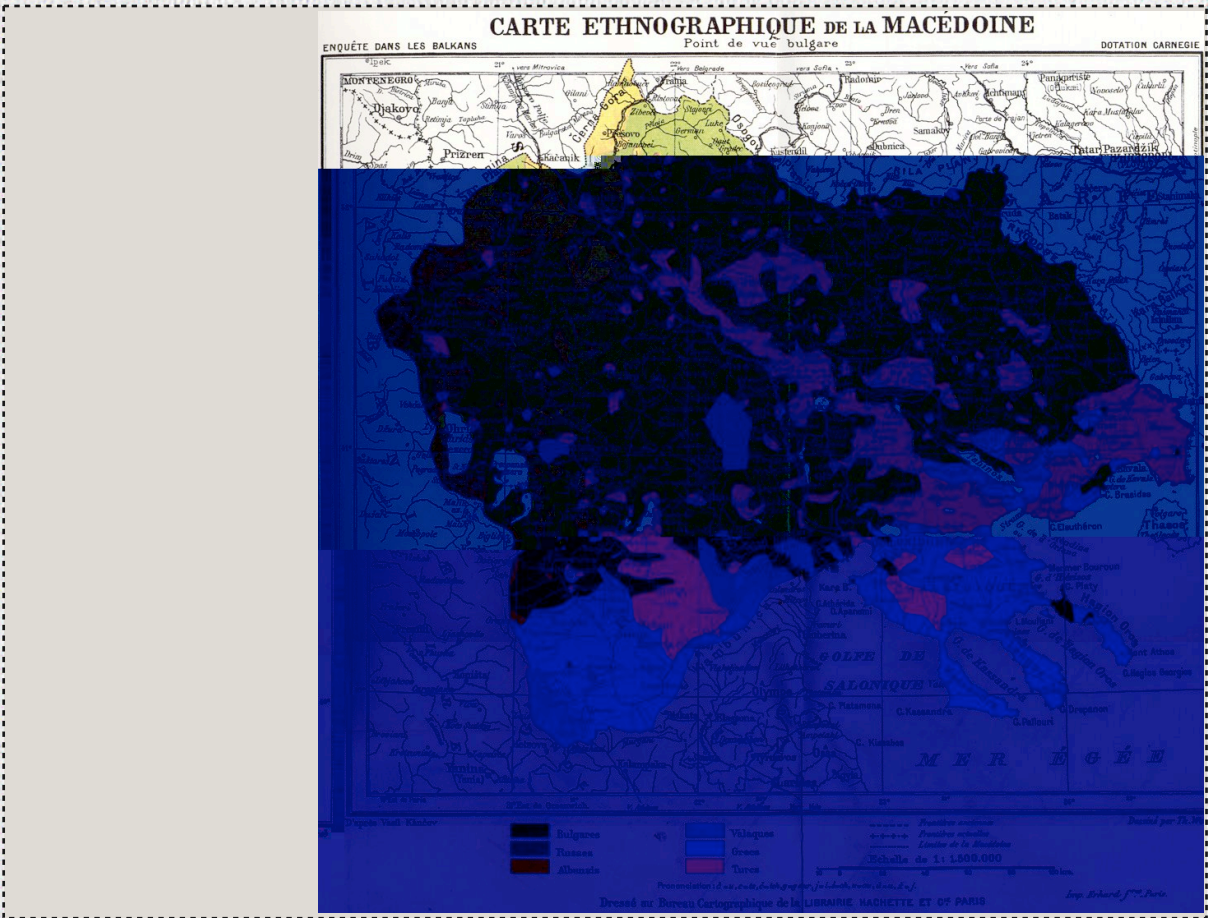
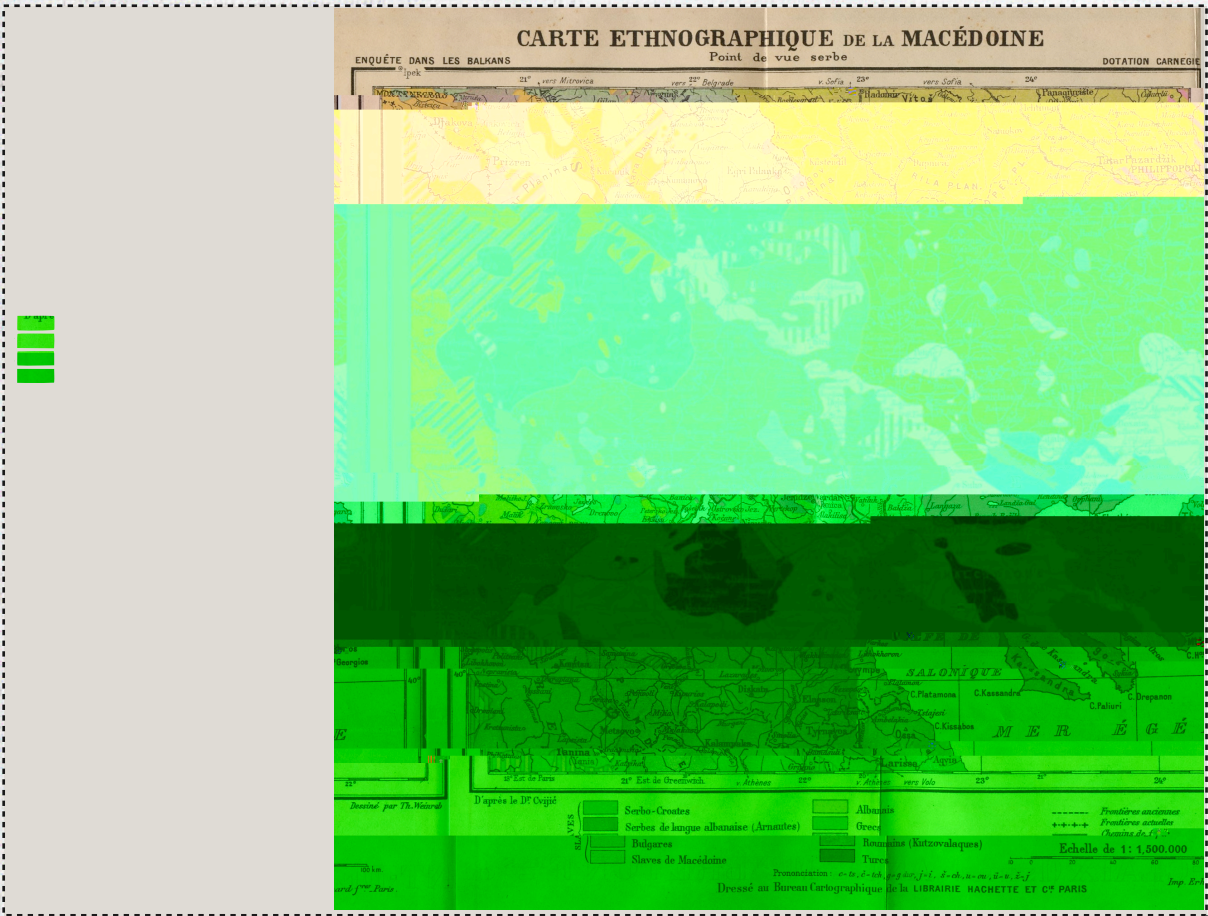
Source 2

A  
B  
C C



[http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Territorial\\_aspirations\\_of\\_the\\_Balkan\\_states,\\_1912.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Territorial_aspirations_of_the_Balkan_states,_1912.jpg)  
(19.07.2013)







Source 1

E !



Give me circular tickets to Sofia, Belgrade, Cetinje and Athens; optional return.

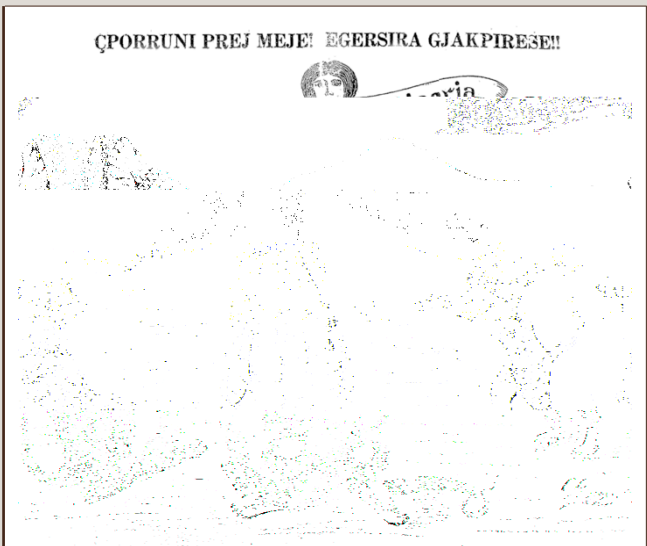
-How many tickets, please?

-700,000 or 800,000 for the moment.

*Tobias Heinzelmann, Balkanska kriza u osmanliskim karikaturama. Satiricne novine Karagjoz i Kalem 1908-1914, Istanbul, 1999*

Source 2

A



Caricature shows Albania defending itself from neighboring countries. Montenegro is represented as a monkey, Greece as a tiger and Serbia as a snake. Text on Albanian: "Go away from me! Bloodsuckers!"

*Newspaper "Dielli". 13.02.1913, pg. 3*

Source 3

M , F



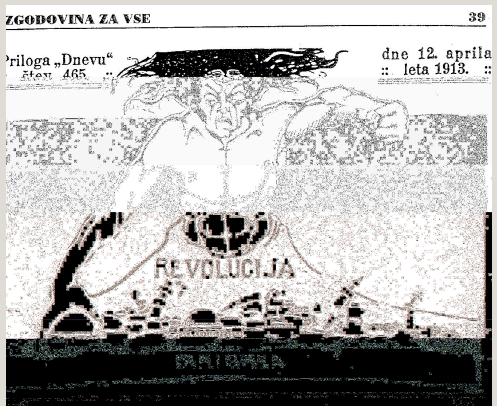
Illustration: Macedonia, Freedom at last

*Punch or the London charivari, November, 27 1912*

Source 4

S

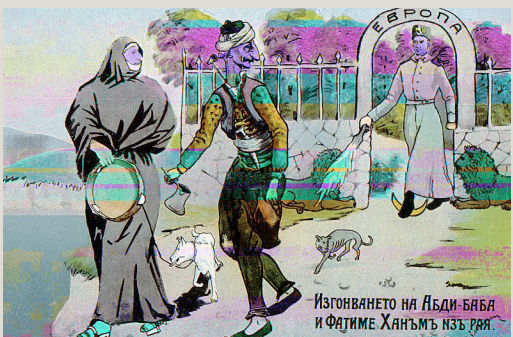
Revolution  
Istanbul



Source 5

B

The expulsion of the Ottomans from Europe





Source 1

**TERMS OF THE BALKAN ALIANCE TREATY**

There are two parts to the Bulgar-Serbian treaty. One part created a defensive alliance between the contracting parties, in which they pledged themselves to "succor one another with their entire forces in the event of one of them being attacked by one or more States." The other part is the "secret annex," in which they provided for possible war against Turkey, in the event of internal or external troubles of Turkey which might endanger the national interests of either of the contracting parties or threaten the maintenance of the status quo in the Balkan peninsula. The important feature of this part is the agreement as to territorial divisions in the event of a victorious outcome of such a war.

(...) Autonomy was to be given to the intermediate region. If, however, both parties should agree that autonomy for this region was not feasible, it was to be divided between them according to lines defined in the treaty, with the exception of a further intermediate region left undivided and to be subsequently apportioned through arbitration by the Czar of Russia.

*Anderson, Frank Maloy and Amos Shartle Hershey, Handbook for the Diplomatic History of Europe, Asia, and Africa 1870-1914. Prepared for the National Board for Historical Service. Government Printing Office, Washington, 1918.*

Source 2

**M B P**

5 October 1912

The humane Christian feeling, the sacred duty to help your brothers when their very existence is being threatened, the honour and dignity of Bulgaria imposed on Me, the duty to call to the colours, the sons of the country who are ready to defend it. Our cause is right, glorious and sacred. With humble trust in the protection and help of the God Almighty, I announce to the Bulgarian people that the war for human rights of the Christians in Turkey has been declared.

I order the brave Bulgarian army to invade the territory of Turkey! Together with us against our mutual enemy, and with the same aim, the armies of our allies will fight, the Balkan countries - Serbia, Greece and Montenegro. And in this fight of the Cross against the Crescent, of freedom against tyranny, we will have the sympathy of all the people who love justice and progress.

*Kishkilova, B c*

Source 3

**A G I**

5 October, 1912, TO MY PEOPLE

Our sacred obligations to our precious country, to our enslaved brothers and to humanity, demand that the State, following the failure of peaceful attempts to secure the human rights of Christians under Turkish rule, take up arms in order to put an end to the suffering they have endured for centuries. Greece, along with her allies who are inspired by the same sentiments and bound by the same obligations, undertakes the holy struggle of justice and freedom for the oppressed peoples of the Orient. Our army and navy, fully aware of their duty towards the Nation and Christianity, mindful of their national traditions and proud of their moral superiority and value, faithfully enter the struggle ready to shed their honest blood in order to restore freedom to the tyrannised. Greece, together with her allies, shall pursue this sacred cause at all costs; invoking God's help in this fully justified struggle of civilisation, we exclaim Long Live Greece, Long Live the Nation.

*Gardika-Katsiadaki, Margaritis, The Aegean*

Source 4

**THE PROCLAMATION OF WAR**

My dear Serbs,

What I never had hoped, has happened. Bulgarians, our brothers in blood and faith, our allies, started an unannounced war against us. They spilled the blood of their brothers, allies and inhumanly killed the wounded. They broke the alliance contract by sword, and destroyed the friendship and brotherhood. It has been eight days now that on Ovce field in Macedonia, on old borders of our fatherland, a fierce battle is ongoing and brotherly blood is being spilled.

(...) Bulgarians forgot the brotherly I-Serb aid, spilled blood and fallen heroes in the fields of Trance! They mocked the Slavic idea and showed a repulsive example of ungratefulness and greed. This doing by the Bulgarians hurt me deeply. It hurt my honest Slavic feelings. May the responsibility for this crime towards the Slavs and mankind be borne by those who committed it. And for what? Because they did not want to discuss peacefully the dispute on division!

(...). May the God Almighty and heroes' luck be of help to my dear soldiers, in this sad, but imposed war.

Belgrade, 25 June 1913. King Peter the 1st (signed)

Source 5

**P K N M ,**

27 July 1913

Montenegrins!

[...] Overwhelmed by the acquired victories and the glory of its allies, our fourth companion wanted to seize our joint exploits by force, disregarding God's justice and the fatherly judgement of the Czar Patron

[...] Bulgarians, misguided, detached from our Slavic flock [...] attacked their brothers and allies. Bulgarians should be prevented from using the same weapon and instructed to respect mutual interests and Slavic solidarity. This decision fell very hard on my heart, because an arm must be cut using an arm, but we could not do otherwise. My soul is overcome with sorrow because I have to encourage your bravery to forcefully repel the Bulgarian attacks, but I cherish the hope that, once the angel of peace spreads his wings over the Balkans, a fresh and strong tree of Slavic unity will grow from our mixed Slavic blood [...]

Nikola (sgd)

At Cetinje, 27 July 1913

*Balkanski rat u slici i reci 23, 14 (27) July 1913.*



## Documents for group IV

### Source 1

**D** **A** **B** **W**  
- Skopje, 14 October 1912

The branch of the "Salvation" Committee in Skopje and the "Black Society" held an emergency meeting with the subject: Turkey will bring the war. So how will we rescue Albania?  
The decisions taken were:  
1. Send a proclamation to the Great Powers  
2. Form a group of delegates to break Scutari's Highlanders agreement with Montenegro.  
3. This delegation will have the capacity to unify the Albanian regions in order to rescue the country from the danger of breaking apart.  
The proclamation signed on 16 October 1912 by the "Black Society" stated that: "The Black Society", as representative of the Albanian people, is honored to inform you that the Albanian people is fighting not to enforce the Turkish domination in the Balkans but to take hold of the whole Albanian territory. Therefore, whatever the end of the war may be, Albanians will never admit any other form of administration for the four vilayets than that of a single government.

*Akte të Rilindjes Kombëtare Shqiptare, pp. 255-256.*

### Source 2

**H** **K** **\***  
**B** **M**

... Naturally, Macedonia was the land towards which all the desires and sympathies of the Bulgarian bourgeoisie were directed. From that time on the bourgeoisie could not be separated from the obsession of "liberating" Macedonia. On the contrary, the more capitalism developed, the more its patriotic desire for Macedonia was stirred up.  
... Macedonia became the apple of discord among the Balkan peoples. The great capitalist states aroused the appetites of those peoples towards Macedonia so that they might disunite and enfeeble them even more. They achieved this both by their intrigues among the small states in the Balkan Peninsula and by the planned stirring up of national hostilities within Macedonia...

*\* Prominent activist of the Bulgarian and international worker movement*

### Source 3

**D** **T** **B**  
**M** **1913.**

... We Social Democrats, therefore, we can not ask who would fall to Macedonia, because we can not agree with seeing that it belongs to either Serbia, Bulgaria or Greece, nor be shared among the states ...  
The only correct view that we social democrats support is: Freedom, not oppression, equality, not subordination of all nations. All this can be achieved not by conquering of Macedonia by Bulgaria, Serbia and Greece and with separation between them, but with the full freedom of the Macedonian population, nationally constituted as an equal member to enter the Balkan federation. Of course this same applies to Thrace and Albania.

*Historical Archives of Belgrade CPY Vol 3 1950 str.239-242*

### Source 4

**Memorandum on the independence of Macedonia submitted by the Macedonian colony in St. Petersburg to the Conference of the representatives of the Great Powers in London**

...Now Macedonia is liberated again. But Europe is prone to make the same mistake which was made in 1878. Instead of proclaiming Macedonia an autonomous state, its new liberators have decided to divide it among themselves; we are convinced and deeply believe that the aware and democratic sections of the Bulgarian, Greek and Serbian people have not participated in this partition of the Macedonian people. Yet Macedonia has all the natural and historical rights to self-determination. Over the centuries it has been an autonomous political unit or included in the structure of other states. This has resulted from its geographical location and individuality. The borders of Macedonia are clearly marked by the mountain chains that surround it and by the coast. This geographical whole and the whole system of fertile valleys and fields arrayed like a fan also determine the economic wholeness and visibility of the country...

*Documents of the struggle of the Macedonian people for independence and national state, Skopje 1985, p. 597*



### Activity 3

W  
B W !

Documents for group I

H ?

Begins with a brief brain storming on therm "WAR". On the board, the record 10-15 words arising from brain storming. Then each group gets a certain role. Possible roles are the following (each teacher can independently choose roles):

I group - A soldier who writes a letter to his family or gives interview to news paper.

II group - A civilian who writes a letter to his family or gives interview to news paper..

III group - A journalist who writes article about Balkan Wars.

IV group - A journalist who writes article about "Albanian question" or "Macedonian question" during Balkan Wars.

Task to each group is to prepare written document (letter, article, report or interview dependence of the group). While in this document should be used all 10-15 words that were previously derived from common brain storming on theme "WAR".

Source 1

T S

The Serbian soldier, like the Greek, was firmly persuaded that in Macedonia he would find compatriots, men who could speak his language and address him with *jivio* or *zito*. He found men speaking a language different from his, who cried *hourrah!* He misunderstood or did not understand at all. The theory he had learned from youth of the existence of a Serbian Macedonia and Greek Macedonia naturally suffered; but his patriotic conviction that Macedonia must become Greek or Serbian, if not so already, remained unaffected. Doubtless Macedonia had been what he wanted it to become in those times of *Ducan the Strong* or the Byzantine Emperors. It was only agitators and propagandist Bulgarians who instilled into the population the idea of being Bulgarians. The agitators must be driven out of the country, and it would again become what it had always been, Serbian or Greek. Accordingly, they acted on this basis. Who were these agitators who had made people forget the Greek and Serbian languages? First, they were the priests; then the schoolmasters; lastly the revolutionary elements who, under the ancient régime, had formed an "organisation"; heads of bands and their members, peasants who had supplied them with money or food, in a word the whole of the male population, in so far as it was educated and informed.

*Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Report of the International Commission... , pp.50-51.*

Source 2

On June 21 during the battle, I was struck in the left leg and heel, by a ball. Unable to move, I had to stay where I was. Then some Bulgar soldiers came, and two of them began to rob me. They took from me a leather purse containing 115 francs, a watch worth forty-eight francs, a leather pouch, an amber cigarholder, an epaulette, a whistle, a box of matches, my cap and its cockade. Having taken all these, they made ready to go, but one of them said, "Let us kill him now!" Then he sharpened his knife against his gun and gave me three gashes, two on the left, one on the right. The other gave me a strong blow on the leg and in the right ribs.

A third Bulgar came up and hit me with his musket in the chest. Then they departed.

*Received by Lieut. Colonel Zarko Trpkovits.*

Source 3

T B , B C S ,

The morale of our army wasn't high at all. After suffering privation and diseases for so long, our army felt depressed. The prolonged political negotiations made our soldiers feel uneasy. They were all homesick and wished they could go back home as soon as possible. Besides, the idea of waging a war against our allies was not at all popular among the soldiers and they all wanted it to be avoided.

The officers consistently concealed the fact that there had been demonstrations and riots against the war in the units, as the Deputy Commander-in Chief had threatened them that they would be dismissed for allowing disorder. Thus, nobody could tell the truth. Of course, there was some defeatist propaganda by the extreme elements, but it was not as dangerous as each soldier's inner conviction that this fratricidal war would not bring any good.

The earthquake in Veliko Turnovo and Gorna Oryahovitsa also added to the depression.

*Fichev, Selected Works.*



## Documents for group I

### Source 4

E L G S , B R .

Rhodope, 11th July, 1913.

This war has been very painful. We have burnt all the villages abandoned by the Bulgarians. They burn the Greek villages and we the Bulgarian. They massacre, we massacre and against all those of that dishonest nation, who fell into our hands, the Mannlicher .Tifie has done its work. Of the 1,200 prisoners we took at Nigrita, only forty-one remain in the prisons, and everywhere we have been, we have not left a single root of this race.

*Teaching modern southeast european history, Alternative education material, The Balkan Wars, 2009,*

### Source 5

L I P , A S , 23 J 1913

My Dearest Wife,

During the Turkish campaign I used to write to you from Turkish villages. Now, during the Bulgarian campaign I am writing from Bulgarian places. I wrote again to you two days ago, my love, immediately after the battle of Kilikis—this great triumph. Kilikis was the den and sacred town of the Bulgarians and the komitaci guerrillas, as well as the birthplace of Danef. After the battle they set fire to it. It was a grand spectacle; it burned for two days; the people, all Bulgarians, had already left it. Our army, my dear, is constantly advancing en gallopant, pursuing the blustering Bulgarians who flee like hares, the scoundrels. They run too fast for us, but we'll get them—they'll have to stop somewhere. You cannot imagine, dear, the picture this war scene presents. Everywhere we go we come across desolation and misery; the Turks, who seem to have suffered a lot under the Bulgarians, are now avenging themselves by burning down their villages and produce. There is always a burning village in sight. The Bulgarians have fled; there are no more Bulgarians in Macedonia; the monsters have left for good; and you should see what laches (cowards) they are: the prisoners we take all tremble with fear. How happy I am that this war came to rid us once and for all of these bullies, to force us to get to know each other, to enable us to remove their lion's hides and expose them, as their impudence had tricked the world into calling them 'Prussians of the East', those ridiculous, stupid people! Not content with what they already had, the cheating scoundrels, they wanted to seize the share of their allies, those who helped them in their conquests and without whom they would have long perished under the Turks. Now they will lose everything they had. They deserve it. They are a living example of the myth with the dog and the meat.

I feel you are always at my side, you and our dear children. I yearn for you, but the victory is a solace and relief, because it means that our separation will not last much longer. I don't suppose the war will take more than a fortnight now.

What does Evgenios have to say now about the Bulgarians, whom he admired so much?

*With all my love, Your husband Trichas, pp.318-319.*

### Source 6

B ,

Lozengrad, 13 December 1912

Some information has reached the headquarters, which unfortunately makes us suspect, that certain people and officers had dared to resort to plunder and violence against the civilian population in the conquered territories. As, on one hand, such extremely reprehensible and inhumane acts compromise the Bulgarian nation, and on the other hand shake the trust of our would-be subjects, especially that of the civilian Muslim population, in the capacity of our country to secure their honour, property and life, I order:

1. The army commanders and the military governors must take quick and strict measures, so that prosecution is set in motion for such acts committed in the area occupied by their armies; the culprits must be immediately taken to court, irrespective of their rank and position. All the commanders must be warned to punish such criminal acts mercilessly, bearing in mind the responsibility they will have otherwise.

2. Strict measures must be taken to establish order and discipline in the rear. Anybody who does not belong to the army or work for it must be sent back to Bulgaria. Everybody who belongs to the army, but because of their unreliability could compromise service in the rear, must be sent to the front-line.

3. All the ranks should be warned that the civilian population of the occupied territories, irrespective of their nationality and religion, is

under the protection of our military laws and any unjustified violence and injustice against it will be prosecuted by the same laws. In order to achieve this, I appeal to all the military and civil authorities to co-operate.

4. In conclusion, I would like to remind you that we had started this war in the name of a highly human idea, i.e. 'to liberate these people from a regime, which is unbearable in its violence and injustice'. God helps his brave Bulgarian sons to succeed in achieving this noble aim. At this moment I appeal to them not to allow some of their fellow men to compromise their great and glorious exploit, in plain sight of the civilised world, with such acts.

*V. Georgiev-St. Trifonov.*



## Source 1

**EVIDENCE OF RAHNI EFFENDI, of Strumnitsa.**

... A local gendarmerie was appointed and a gendarme and a soldier were told off to go round from house to house, summoning the Moslems, one by one, to attend the commission. I was summoned myself with the rest.

The procedure was as follows: The Servian commandant would inquire, "What kind of a man is this?" The answer was simply either "good" or "bad." No inquiry was made into our characters; there was no defense and no discussion; if one member of the commission said "bad," that sufficed to condemn the prisoner. Each member of the commission had his own enemies whom he wished to destroy, and therefore did not oppose the wishes of his fellow members. When sentence was pronounced the prisoner stripped of his outer clothes and bound, and his money was taken by the Servian commander. I was pronounced "good," and so perhaps were one-tenth of the prisoners. Those sentenced were bound together by threes, and taken to the slaughter house; their ears and noses were often cut off before they were killed. This slaughter went on a month; I believe that from three to four thousand Moslems were killed in the town and the neighboring villages.

**ABDUL KERIN AGA, of Strumnitsa**, confirmed the statements of the previous witness. His own son was brought bound to the gate at his house; he then went to Toma, the chief of the Bulgarian bands, and tried to bargain with him for his son's life. Toma demanded a hundred pounds; he had previously paid on two different occasions 50 (pounds) and 70 (pounds) to save this same son. He told Toma that he had not the money ready, but would try to sell a shop if the Bulgarians would wait until evening. Toma refused to wait and his son was shot.

*Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Report of the International Commission... , page 73*

## Source 2

**The Carnegie endowment for international peace comments upon the 'parallel' losses from the burning of villages and the exodus of people**

The burning of villages and the exodus of the defeated population is a normal and traditional incident of all Balkan wars and insurrections. It is the habit of all these people. What they have suffered themselves, they inflict in turn upon others. It could have been avoided only by imperative orders from Athens, Belgrade, and Sofia, and only then if the church and the insurgent organisation had seconded the resolve of the governments. A general appeal for humanity was in fact published by the Macedonian insurgent "Internal Organisation", but it appears to have produced little effect.

*Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Report of the International Commission... , pp. 73*

## Source 3

**M V , 1912 S**

Since the very beginning the Balkan allies – the 'liberators' – marked great victories against Turkey. On the occasion of the Serbian army occupying our town Veles, we the citizens received the 'liberators' very solemnly. One should recognise the fact that in the first days of the war, the largest part of the population –with few exceptions– was deliriously happy. The end of the five centuries of the Turkish yoke had finally come! We were filled with the hope that favourable conditions for a better life and reconstruction would come, putting an end to the difficult past and protecting the interests of the Macedonian people.

But, unfortunately, from the very first days, the kind of winds that were blowing amongst the allies – 'liberators' – and the kind of surprises that could be expected in the near future could be seen ... Our 'liberators' were not hiding their great-Serbian aspirations. When they started a conversation with a citizen, the first question was 'What are you?' – and if they received the answer that he or she was not a Serbian, they would continue: "It was that way until now, but it will change in the future. The Bulgarians were working on you a lot to make you Bulgarian. But now you will become good Serbians... You should know: where the Serbian foot steps, there it will be a Serbian".

*Martulkov, Moeto učevstvo..., pp. 243-4.*

## Source 4

**L T , B R R 1917. T L ,**

"Komitadi (Bulgarian and Serbian rebels) start automatically when become dark. Fall into Turkish and Albanian houses and many times the same is happen: steal and slashing. Skopje has 60,000 inhabitants, half of whom are Albanians and Turks. Some fled, but most remained. Now they have become the victims every night bloodshed. "

Trotsky had expected to report on the military victory of the Slavs, but after seeing the brutal massacres, he decided to return to Russia: "I did not have the strength to make it through, I could not breathe. My political interest and enormous moral curiosity to see what was going on was gone. All that remained was the desire to escape as soon as possible. "

*The War Correspondence of Leon Trotsky: The Balkan Wars 1912-13,*



### Source 1

#### WAR IN THE BALKANS - I

Greedy and corrupt Europe for hundreds of years, leave the Turks to torture on animal way, to kill, innocent Christians, which is the fault of the civilized and cultural Europe misfortune befell them I still keep it trapped religious fanatic monster creature in human, which is called a Turk.

It all suffer, leave supposedly progressive, cultural, humanitarian Europe, as well as the cultural envy of Europe, insatiability and gluttony, otherwise personality and corruption in this "civilized" era, hampered until now always honestly, who would be raised in defense of the oppressed and martyr, to free them from bloodthirsty beast.

Thus, the Turk remained quietly at the sight of cultural philanthropy and Europe slaughtered, supplies, burned, assaulted women, youthful children and the infirm elderly women. If that whenever people martyred in despair and tried to raise shook off the yoke of the Ottoman beast, that you immediately cultural Europe, where members would help to suppress wild beasts desperate moans and cries hungry and weary of Christian poverty. All this in the name of fake and tainted cultural civilization of Europe ...

*Daily paper, NASA SLOGA, Pula, 17 October 1912*

### Source 2

#### WAR IN THE BALKANS - II

The Balkan countries surely don't enter the war only to obtain that little promises for reforms in Turkey, but also with the hope of getting complete autonomy for the Christian provinces, or at least to widen their territory (...) Of course, the final success of the Balkan countries depends on their readiness for war and the understanding and carrying out of their mutual interests. If this Alliance is based on a solid foundation, its success is guaranteed; they will be able to oppose all external attempts as a whole, as a new authority.

*The Obzor (The Horizon), daily paper in Zagreb, 10 October 1912*

### Source 3

**A S**

**M**

... No Slav would think of setting fire to this dispute; even the Russians, as the oldest brothers avoid interfering directly in the conflict as arbiters. [...] The "Russian Word" ("Ruskoje Slovo") explicitly warns the Serbs – and implicitly also the Bulgarians – that in the case (of the war) they should not reckon upon Russian support nor on the sympathies of the Entente..." A new Balkan War should in no way be allowed.

The Great Powers have the necessary means at their disposal to put an end to the stupid disputes and intransigence of one or the other side. Such a measure is the autonomy of Macedonia – it is clear that such a measure will be taken only in an extreme case, when all the other means become ineffective".

The opinion of the Russian newspaper is nothing new to the world. It has been known in smaller circles in the Balkans for months that a party exists—a more or less important one – which would like to create an autonomous Macedonia; this is the party of separatists. They act secretly, and it is clear why. But if they get support from such a strong side as the Russian one, this can pluck up their courage, they can soon get new followers and the future can unexpectedly smile on them.

*Slovenec, 122, 31 May 1913*

### Source 4

**A**

**B**

**, 26 J**

**1913 - THE PEACE TREAT IS SIGNED**

The peace treaty has been signed in Bucharest, but there will be no peace at all in the Balkans. There cannot be peace where there is violence. The peace treaty signed in Bucharest is an approval of the most brutal violence. Bulgaria will never be reconciled with it. Truncated, narrowed at its borders, plundered, stifled, raped, it will start working within its frontiers to strengthen its economic, cultural and physical powers ten times over, so that, at its earliest convenience, it will take what belongs to it, both by national and historical rights.

*H B [Narodna Volya]53, No.58, 26 July 1913 in Kishkilova, E c*



### Source 1

E A ,  
F B W

#### A. FROM A NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED IN BOSTON

The Great Meeting that the patriots held in Boston on 6 October 1912 is remarkable in the history of the Albanian movement. Other meetings that were held in America have expressed the patriotism and the ideals of our youth. But the meeting on 6 October displayed another unexpected and very remarkable thing, because it was rare: I want to talk about its political meaning. It wasn't an insignificant occurrence to have patriots gathered from all corners of America and unanimously declare that the interest of Albania is the total union with Turkey against the Balkan countries. Albania is in danger of being divided and it can be saved only by its supporters and friends. This meeting is the reason which influenced, to a certain degree, the Ottoman government to protect Albania's rights in the Conference of London. It cannot be denied that, if Turkey wanted to give up the protection of Albania, it would be in her interests to give Greece, Serbia, Montenegro what these countries require, and to make peace with these Kingdoms and then it would be left to face only Bulgaria. But our unified actions made her milder, and our policy made her understand her faults and the damage she caused in the past, and she wanted to reward us by insisting that Janina, Shkodra and, if possible, Monastir, be part of the new Albania.

Dielli (The Sun), 19 December 1912, p. 1.

#### B. FROM A NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED IN SOFIA

This program of the four united Powers is a desirable one, therefore the Albanian nation must not unite with Turkey and fight together with the one that is sentenced to death. It should raise its voice and demand its rights from the Great Powers. It should ( )-129.8ce only

### Source 2

T A M E S D

Some districts were so large it took me three days of ten or twelve hours to ride around them and assist them and return to Scutari. In all, I visited some 1,022 burnt-out families near Scutari. The most piteous thing of all was that so few of the unhappy victims had any idea why this ruin had fallen upon them. Women with starving children would ask: "Why did the Great Kings (the Powers) let soldiers come and rob us and kill us? We were doing no harm. And they took our goats, and our sheep – everything, everything. And when my husband tried to save the sheep, they shot him. Our house is burnt. We are starving on the highroad."

M. Edith Durham, p. 296.

### Source 3

#### Telegram from the Head of the Albanian Provisional Government sent to the foreign ministers of Montenegro, Serbia, Bulgaria and Greece, 29 November 1912

I would like to inform Your Excellences of a remarkable event in the national life of the Albanians.

The representatives from all the Albanian regions, of different religious affiliations, gathered yesterday in a National Assembly, in the city of Vlora, declared the independence of Albania, and elected a Provisional Government.

Albanians are happy to join the family of the free nations of East Europe, having no other aim than to live in peace with all their neighbours. Hoping that this change in the national life and the Provisional Government will be recognised by the Governments of Your Royal Highnesses; that every hostile action from your armies inside our national land will cease and all the Albanian territories occupied by the Allies' armies now, will be free again.

Qeveria e Përkohëshme e Vlorës..., pp.42-43.



Source 1

**About Ohrid - Debar Uprising writes in his biography and writer from Struga, Risto Krle.**

"In willages Rajca and Prnjezi in Albanija near to border with Macedonia, opposite of mountain Jablanica have acumulate many Albanians and Macedonians refugees, including Milan Matov, vice priminister of Albania, Easad Pasha, former sultan General and many others. They were provided great hospitalty. Macedonians and Albanians refugees formed their own separe head quarters. Members of two head quarters.

Their aim was the liberation of Macedonia and joint taking power into their own hands. Common headquarters of Macedonian-Albanian rebellion was based in the village Rayjo.

*Risto Krle Autobiography, Skopje, 1990, p. 164*

Source 3

T G P  
A B S

The Macedonians have continually, over the centuries, risen up and fought for independence and freedom, and by their persistent struggle aided the liberation of Serbia, Greece and Bulgaria... More then on hundred thousand Macedonian fighters have fought shoulder to shoulder with the allied armies... Instead of Macedonia, celebrated by Alexander of Macedon, consecrated by the Apostle St. Paul, dignified by the activity of the holy brothers SS. Cyril and Methodius...instead of united, integral and free Macedonia, European diplomacy, and alongside it, you, too, our brothers – allies and liberators, are tearing us into pieces and defiling our sacred ideals... Remember, brother Bulgarians, Serbs and Greeks, that you were reborn to start a new life only after 14 bloody wars of Russia against the Ottoman Empire... Remember that a dismembered Macedonia will be an eternal apple of discord among you. Remember that also in the past times of history one after another state perished in the struggle for Macedonia and do not continue the bloody list of the dead in the present time... Macedonia should be an independent state within its ethnographic, geographical, cultural and historical boundaries, with a government accountable to a national assembly... a national representative body should be established...in the city of Salonika, elected by general vote. Brother allies and liberators! We hope that our words will reach your hearts and minds...

St. Petersburg, Signed by the authorized representatives

*Taken from Makedonskii Golos, St. Petersburg, pages 52-55.*

Source 2

T

Tikvesh uprising was first organized mass popular armed resistance to Serbian rule which occupied Vardar Macedonia after the withdrawal of Turkish forces in the First Balkan War. The uprising began on 19 June 1913, in Tikveshija and lasted seven days. Tikvesh uprising is the result of Tikvesh population spontaneously organized and managed by local activists, revolutionaries and dukes of the organization, supported by troops of IMRO.

*Violeta Achkova and Nicholas Žezov "treason and assassinations in Macedonian history", Skopje, 2004th*

Source 4

T F , A M 1912 ,

Are we going to apply this progression towards the autonomy of Macedonia? The idea of a Macedonia for the Macedonians has progressed in these last few years and tends to replace the idea of a more dangerous breaking up of Macedonia and its division between the different Balkan States. But the convulsions which have been continuously disturbing this province seem to originate in a Bulgarian movement rather than a Macedonian movement. In these conditions, it would be difficult to organise Macedonian autonomy without considerably favouring the Bulgarian party by sacrificing other nationalities' parties. This would provoke apparently desperate outbreaks of resistance even in the heart of Macedonia. Finally, we should not forget that the Greeks and Koutzo-Vlachs (Romanians) of Macedonia, for fear of hegemony of Slavic elements, are in favour of the status quo.

*AlbeALric Cahuet, "La situation en Turquie et la proposition Berchtold", L'illustration, 3626, 24 aou^t 1912, p. 123.*

Source 5

**Serb authorities not only in Ohrid but wider in western Macedonia were informed that preparations are being made for lifting the insurgency in the region. For these**

**preparations Mirko Novakovic - Chief of Staff of Bitola District, the 12th September 1913 year. by telegram, notify the Ministry of Interior in Belgrade, included**

"Chief of the Prespa area occurs that appears anarchist bands led by Peter Chaulev and Krste Trajcev, Bulgarian leaders, with their Chetniks and are threatening greater danger than the Arnauts and that in case of intrusion of these bands can raise all the villages and cities ... and it is ready. page 57-58

*P. Mitreska, Serbian documents the history of the Ohrid-Struga region (1890-1940) Struga, 2002 str.182 dok.107*





## Activity 4

S

!

W

?

Students will analyse documents and then will determine to which term they belong and why. Terms are the following:

- R
- R
- R
- R
- R

Documents for all groups

This discussion should forward and should give an answer to the second key question. Also to answer the question: **W** **B**

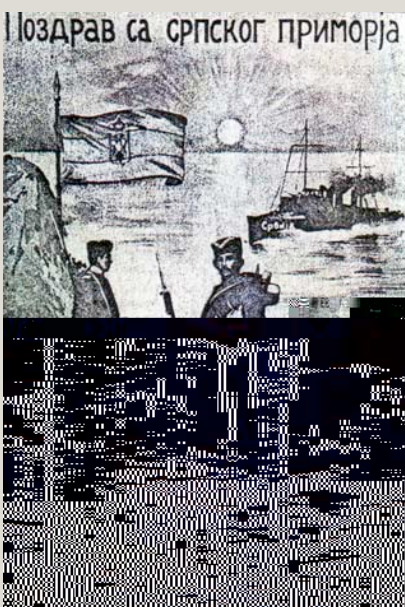
!

Source 1  
B W

	Area in square miles		Estimated population	
	Before the war	After the war	Before the war	After the war
Albania	-	11,317	-	850,000
Bulgaria	33,647	43,310	4,337,516	4,467,006
Greece	25,014	41,933	2,666,000	4,363,000
Montenegro	3,474	5,603	250,000	500,000
Romania	50,720	53,489	7,230,418	7,516,418
Serbia	18,650	33,891	2,911,701	4,527,992
Turkey in Europe	65,350	10,882	6,130,200	1,891,000

Source 2

S B W



"Greetings from the Serbian coast. Durres. Souvenirs from the first Serbian harbor."

[http://sh.wikipedia.org/wiki/Datoteka:Pozdrav\\_sa\\_srpskog\\_primorja.jpg](http://sh.wikipedia.org/wiki/Datoteka:Pozdrav_sa_srpskog_primorja.jpg)

Source 3

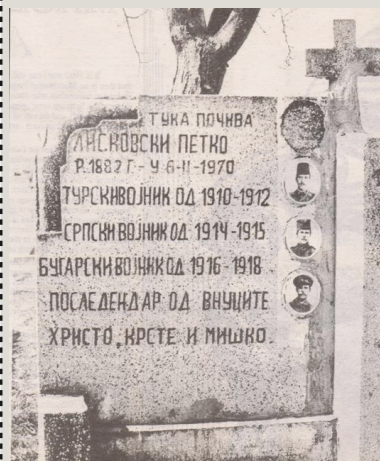
D O



[http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ottoman\\_soldiers\\_after\\_the\\_First\\_Balkan\\_War.png](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ottoman_soldiers_after_the_First_Balkan_War.png)

Source 4

G B , M



Herein lies the  
Liskovski Petko  
1882 - 1970  
Turkish soldier 1910-1912  
Serbian soldier 1914-1915  
Bulgarian soldier 1916-1918  
The last gift of grandchildren  
Hristo, Krste and Mishko

<http://www.telegraf.mk/aktuelno/makedonija/102400-bitola-nagrada-mende-petkovski-za-novinarkata-zaneta-zdravkovska>



Source 2

P

A



<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:28nentor.jpg>

Source 8

P

G

1912

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:New\\_Greece.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:New_Greece.jpg)

Source 9

, memorial ossuary of Serbian soldiers  
from Balkan Wars, Kumanovo, Macedonia



<http://www.va.mod.gov.rs/cms/view.php?id=10479>

Source 6

C

S

S



[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Skoplje\\_1912.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Skoplje_1912.jpg)

Source 3

D  
M

B

[http://  
www.kirilica.com.mk/  
vest.asp?id=76676](http://www.kirilica.com.mk/vest.asp?id=76676)