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*A Turn in Greek Policy towards Yugoslav State 1919–1922*

*Summary*

The period after the formation of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, especially the period 1919-1922, represented a turning point in Serbian (Yugoslav) - Greek diplomatic relations. The "predestined relationship" between the two Balkan countries was conditional on certain plans of allied political leaderships in achieving their individual goals in the complex territorial developments in the Balkans, brought about by WW1, but also a result of the policies imposed by the Great Powers, implemented during the period of Paris Peace Conference. Signing the Serbian - Greek defensive alliance (1913) seriously hindered the achievement of territorial claims both for Serbia (Kingdom of SCS) and Greece, which gave rise to increased tensions among the Serbian and Greek populations in Serbian and Greek Macedonia. This alliance also caused differences between the two governments, which they endeavoured to cover up by propaganda in a mutual attempt to present their interrelations as friendly to the foreign powers. After President Venizelos lost office in 1920, a period began when the air of the reports by military and diplomatic attachés to the Kingdom of SCS changed. The arrival of King Constantine to power marked the beginning of a period of Slavophobia. The "attacks" of Greek press were directed towards the possibility of Yugoslavia tending to expand southwards, and appeared more as a result of uncertainty and anxiety about the situation in Asia Minor than in response to actual irredentist aspirations of their northern neighbour in Macedonia. One gets the impression that in spite of the "changed structure of Serbia" and the establishment of the Kingdom of SCS, problems that had existed between the two allied countries remained identical to the ones in the period of the alliance – Bulgaria, the situation in Macedonia, a duty free zone in Thessaloniki, with the exception of a new relationship with Italy between the two allies, as another aggravating factor. During 1922. and in the years that followed, the situation in both countries has significantly changed. Unloading of the Greek army in Asia Minor, Greece seemed to satisfy their ambitions. On the other hand, the Kingdom of SCS sought to overcome loneliness and to act as the biggest and strongest heir of the Habsburg Empire in Eastern Europe. Greek ambitions will finally be destroyed along with the vision of „Great Idea“ in“ the dust of burning Smyrna“. Yugoslav aspirations will essentially have the same fate, because of strong internal national and political conflict, but also the increased threat posed by Italy, Germany and its satellites in Southeastern and Central Europe.