

The breakthrough at dobro Polé in the first world war, the peace agreement of Nei and Bulgaria's second national disaster

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Abstract

The First World War was a turning point in the history of Bulgaria and the world. In the fall of 1915, our country entered the war on the side of the Central Powers. If for the imperialist countries the First World War was a means of redistribution of markets, sources of raw materials and cheap labor, for Bulgaria it was a continuation of the Balkan Wars and a means of national unification. The initial victories of the Bulgarian army were followed by a grueling positional war and logically led to its defeat in the fall of 1918. The results of the war, embodied in the Neue Peace Treaty of November 27, 1919, were assessed as the Second National Disaster. Bulgarian land is divided between Bulgaria's neighbors. The winners imposed cruel reparations and military restrictions on our country.

Key words: Dobro Pole, Uprising, catastrophe, Bulgaria.

Introduction

On June 28, 1914, the Serbian student Gavrilo Princip – a member of the terrorist organization “Young Bosnia” killed the Austro-Hungarian heir to the throne Franz Ferdinand and his wife during their visit to Sarajevo. Austria-Hungary ultimatum demands from Serbia that Austro-Hungarian criminologists participate in the investigation of the murder. Serbia considers this to be unacceptable interference in its internal affairs and refuses. This became an occasion for the Austro-Hungarian Empire to declare war on Serbia on July 28, 1914. Subsequently, other countries from the two military-political blocs of the Entente and the Central Powers also joined the war. The reasons for the outbreak of the First World War are rooted in the desire to redistribute colonies, markets and sources of raw materials from the Great Powers. After the outbreak of war, in 1914 Bulgaria declared armed neutrality. On August 24, 1915, the government of Dr. Vasil Radoslavov joined Bulgaria to the Central Powers, which promised him the return of those unjustly seized after the Inter-Allied War of 1913. Bulgarian territories. The Bulgarian armed forces are grouped into three armies with a total strength of 600,000, divided into 13 divisions with about 1,000 guns. By the end of the war, the total strength of the army reached 877,000 people, with which Bulgaria had the highest degree of mobilization among all the countries participating in the hostilities. On September 10/23, 1915, the Bulgarian army carried out a general mobilization. With a manifesto of Tsar Ferdinand, Bulgaria declares war on Serbia and on October 1/14 the Bulgarian army crosses the Serbian border. After heavy fighting, it defeated the Serbian army, which until that moment had successfully held back the advance of the Austro-Hungarian and German armies. Pressed from two sides, the remnants of the Serbian troops retreated through the Albanian mountains to the Adriatic coast. There they were transported by Italian and French steamers to the island of Corfu for replenishment and reorganization. During the period 1916-1918, the Bulgarian troops fought with variable success on two fronts. On the southern front in Serbia and Macedonia, they routed the Serbs and pushed the Allied forces beyond the Greek border. In Dobruja and in Romania, the Bulgarians defeated the

Russian-Romanian troops and established the Northern Front in the Danube Delta and along the Seret River (Tonchev, T. 1984; Nedev, N. 2001; Hristov, A. 1925; Toshev, St. 1924).

Results and Discussion

1. The breakthrough of the allied troops at Dobro Pole in September 1918

... At the end of August 1918, the enemy began to prepare a massive offensive on the Southern Front. The plan of the agreed command is to break through with two powerful blows the Bulgarian-German positions at Dobro Pole and at Doiran, after which the two advancing columns will unite in Skopje and in this way the entire Bulgarian army in Vardar Macedonia /600 thousand people/ will be surrounded, defeated and captured (Rusev, I. 1921).

Dobro Pole is a high plateau in the Nidje Mountains, cut by rocky valleys through which the tributaries of the Cherna River flow. The Bulgarian army occupied the plateau as early as 1916, but by the start of the offensive in the fall of 1918, the position was not yet completed. The defenders of Dobro Pole are the Bulgarian units of the 2nd Thracian and 3rd Balkan infantry divisions. They are part of the 11th German Army. The German command, considering that the position was naturally strong and an attack by the enemy here unlikely, assigned the 2nd division to defend a strip of 27 km., and the 3rd division a strip twice as large. Major-General Nikola Rybarov was appointed commander of the 3rd Balkan Division, and Major-General Ivan Rusev was appointed commander of the 2nd Thracian Division. From an engineering point of view, the position does not correspond to the requirements for conducting a defense. It consists of a single continuous trench. The proximity of the enemy – only a few hundred meters away – prevents the construction of wire fences, and for this, slingshots are thrown in front of the trenches themselves. For the decisive actions on Dobro Pole, the enemy assigned the 1st and 2nd Serbian armies and the 122nd and 17th French divisions – a total of 8 divisions.

The enemy artillery on Dobro Pole consists of 600 guns and howitzers of various calibers, which makes nearly 20 guns, howitzers and mortars per 1 km. front.

The enemy delivered the main blow in the gap, from Mount Sokol to Mount Peternik – on a front with a width of 9 km. The direction of the enemy's main attack falls between the right flank of the 3rd Infantry Division, defended by the 29th Yambolsky Regiment, and the left flank of the 2nd Infantry Division, defended by the 30th Sheynovsky Regiment. In total, in the section of the breakthrough, the enemy has 47 companies, 363 guns and 470 machine guns. Against this force the two regiments here have 15 companies of infantry, 47 guns, and 140 heavy machine guns. With this balance of forces, the enemy has a vast superiority in manpower and artillery in the direction of the main strike (Rusev, I. 1921).

The First Serbian Army advances on a front from Leshnica to Mount Sokol with the Danube and Drina divisions in the first line and the Moravian division in the second line – against 1/2 and 3/2 brigades. The 2nd Serbian Army with its three divisions along with the 17th Colonial and 122nd French Divisions advanced on a front from Mount Sokol to Mount Peternik. The two French divisions and the Shumadiya division are in the first line, and the Yugoslav and Timoshka divisions are in the second line.

After careful preparation, the enemy's advance began on September 14, 1918 with a powerful artillery preparation. It descended on the sections of the 29th Yambol Infantry Regiment /3rd Division/ and the 30th Sheynovsky Infantry Regiment /2nd Division/ and continued with unabated force throughout the day and night. Parallel to the artillery preparation, squadrons of enemy aircraft attacked the Bulgarian defenses and the nearby rear with bombs and machine gun fire. Gradually the enemy's artillery fire was carried across the entire width of the defenses of the 2nd and 3rd Divisions.

On September 15, the enemy's artillery fire on the positions and the near rear changed into drumming, with an unprecedented force. At 5:30 in the morning, enemy infantry took up their starting position and rapidly attacked the front end of the Bulgarian defense. Against the section of the 1/8 Brigade three opposing divisions advanced, and against the section of the 1/2 Brigade two opposing

divisions. Combat is heavy and expanding in scope. The enemy entered the Bulgarian trenches and hand-to-hand combat ensued.

At 11.15 a.m. on September 15, the entire Dobro Pole plateau fell into enemy hands., with the exception of many machine-gun nests, which were surrounded by the enemy, did not surrender, but fought to the last man. The Bulgarians fought desperately, but their losses from the drum fire of the enemy's cannons and machine guns were enormous and the surviving defenders of the position were forced to retreat. Over 70 percent of the Bulgarian soldiers at Dobro Pole died on the battlefield. In order not to be overtaken and captured, the units of the 2nd Thracian Division, by order of its commander, retreated on the night of September 15-16 to the second line of defense: the village of Gradeshnitsa, Mount Yarebichna, Mount Tsar Ferdinand, Tundzhan ridge. It is 6-8 km from the first position. The division's losses were heavy. Almost all the artillery was lost.

The climax of the fighting at Dobro Pole is on September 16. The fighting begins at 6.35 am. As a result of their vast superiority in manpower, the enemy succeeded in defeating and pushing back the units of the 2nd and 3rd Infantry Divisions. In the evening, after retreating in successive lines, the physically exhausted and demoralized remnants of the 2nd Thracian Division gather with von Reuter's detachment behind the Chernega River, and the units of the 3rd Balkan Division take up a position around the village of Rozhden.

In this situation, between the junction of the 2nd and 3rd divisions, a gap, 15 km wide, was created, in which the enemy skillfully introduced his forces into it and advanced to the north without encountering resistance. On September 19 and 20, Major General Atanas Hristov wrote in his 1925 book "Historical review of the all-European War and Bulgaria's participation in it", the retreat from the front continued without any operational idea. The soldiers say that further resistance is futile because the war is lost. Excited and exhausted, the soldier crowds no longer want to be told about obedience and the fulfillment of national duty. The enemy is following on the heels of our absent units, because the weak rearguards left behind are being marched, almost without any resistance" (Azmanov, D. 1935).

After the war, malicious attacks and negative assessments by politicians and even by some senior military personnel appeared in the Bulgarian press about the behavior of the units of the 2nd Thracian and 3rd Balkan divisions during the breakthrough of the treaty troops on Dobro Pole. The commander of the 2nd Infantry Division, Major-General Ivan Rusev, who headed the Ministry of Internal Affairs after the coup on June 9, 1923, in his memoir "Dobro Pole and the 2nd Infantry Thracian Division" – instead of looking for management mistakes of the troops, mostly in himself, excuses himself for the defeat by the disobedience and indiscipline of the soldiers in the division (Azmanov, D. 1935).

2. Outbreak of the Military Uprising in September 1918

Not receiving support after the enemy's breakthrough at Dobro Pole, the units of the 2nd and 3rd infantry divisions rebelled, refused to carry out the orders of their commanders and headed for the old Bulgarian borders. In their retreat to the north they entrained the regiments of the 4th, 5th and 9th Divisions. In just a few days, from September 22 to 27, the decision of the soldiers to leave the front became massive. The front soldiers raise the slogans: "Under the knife the rioters!" "Down with the monarchy!" "Onward to Sofia!" The insurgents are moving towards the interior of the country through Negotino, Kavardarsi, Demir Kapia and heading towards the central road to Shtip (Kastelov, B. 1988).

Others of them go through Shtip, Kochani, Tsarevo Selo to Kyustendil, where the Headquarters of the Active Army is located. Along the way, the warbands mix. They ransacked food warehouses, quarreled with rear-line officers and Feldfebels, engaged in skirmishes with enemy units that tried to block their way of retreat and did not even want to hear about stabilization of the front and new combat operations. The front soldiers want retribution from the king and the government and a change of regime in Sofia. The Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Bulgarian Army, Lieutenant-General Georgi Todorov, ordered cavalry squadrons to be sent to stop the "defeated and robbers" fleeing from the front. The commander of the 2nd Thracian Infantry Division, Major General

Ivan Rusev, issues an order in which he orders that all deserters be shot by their superiors, without trial and sentence, and that their relatives in the rear be stopped from receiving monetary aid the state. Moreover, their names are to be read in the churches as a curse, and the doors of their houses are to be blackened with tar as a mark of disgrace.

As early as September 23, the soldiers left the front and formed the first insurgent detachments at Pehchevo station, Tsarevo selo and Berovo. No amount of shootings and threats can stop the insurgent soldiers. On September 24, a squad led by Lieutenant Dimitrov and consisting of 200 fighters captured the Headquarters of the Active Army and arrested the officers there. Other insurgent forces created a revolutionary committee in Radomir, which ensured unity in the actions of the military units that had been acting spontaneously until that moment (Kastelov, B. 1988).

By order of Coburg, agricultural leader Alexander Stamboliyski was released from prison. Before the war, he threatened him that if he joined Bulgaria with the Central Powers, one day his crowned head would roll through the streets of Sofia. Because of these bold words, Alexander Stamboliyski was sentenced to life imprisonment. On September 25, 1918, Stamboliyski and his associate from the BZNS, Raiko Daskalov, were pardoned by King Ferdinand, released from prison and called to the Palace to save the situation after the outbreak of the Military Uprising. The two were sent to Radomir to pacify the rioting soldiers and bring them back to the front. Contrary to Tsar Ferdinand's expectations, on September 27, 1918, Raiko Daskalov arrived in Radomir and heated up the situation even more by declaring Bulgaria a republic, himself as supreme commander, and Alexander Stamboliyski as prime minister. By the evening of the same day, eight infantry companies were formed with two machine gun companies and two guns. These are the first units of the rebel army – about 10 thousand people (Ognyanov, L. 1978).

In the following days, the defenders of the Radomir Republic grew to 15 thousand people. At the head of the rebel forces was Rayko Daskalov, who directed them through the Osogovo and Ograzhden mountains to Pernik and Sofia. Tattered, hungry and barefoot, filled with anger and revolutionary enthusiasm, the insurgent soldiers bravely attacked the government units sent against them in three columns on September 29. Overcoming their resistance, they reached Kniazhevo, Boyana and Gorna Banya. The leaders of the uprising, Rayko Daskalov and Georgi Damyanov, were wounded in the fighting. Lieutenant Hristo Boev was chosen as the new commander-in-chief of the insurgent army, who stopped the offensive in the evening in order to reorganize the insurgent forces. The delay allows government units to receive reinforcements.

Terrified not to repeat the scenario of the uprising of Russian soldiers and sailors in October 1917, the government took extraordinary measures, declaring a state of siege in the capital and requesting help from the German command. The Chief of the German General Staff, Field Marshal Ludendorff, orders the commander of the 11th German Army, General Scholz, to urgently transfer the units of the 217th German Division, which arrived in Varna from the Crimea, to Sofia.

On September 30, they took up positions to defend the approaches to the capital. The cadets of the Military School and other loyal to the government, military units of the capital garrison, as well as police forces, were put on alert. They are thrown against the advancing insurgents. Heavy guns were deployed on the redoubts near Sofia. Particularly energetic in the defense of the city is the Minister of Defense, Lieutenant General Sava Savov. On September 30, under the command of General von Reuter, units of the 217th German Infantry Division together with government troops went on a counteroffensive and captured Vladaya station.

In the next two days, the resistance of the poorly armed and poorly commanded insurgents was crushed. On October 2, 1918, the government troops captured Radomir after a two-hour battle and the Military /Vladay/ uprising was suppressed. In the fratricidal battles, more than 3,000 people died, and more than 10,000 insurgents were captured. The last battles were fought in Pernishko and Radomirsko (Ognyanov, L. 1978).

The outbreak of the Soldiers' Uprising, as well as the breakthrough at Dobro Pole, made by the allied troops, forced the Bulgarian government to send a delegation to Thessaloniki, headed by Andrey Lyapchev, who concluded an armistice under very difficult conditions on September 29,

1918, with the commander of the troops of the Macedonian Entente front, General Louis Franchet Despres.

In this way, Bulgaria came out of the First World War as a belligerent country, and King Ferdinand of Saxe-Coburg abdicated the throne in favor of his son, Prince Boris Turnovski, and left for his family estate Coburg in Germany, where he spent the last years of his life. The anti-war propaganda of the parties of narrow socialists and farmers also played an important role in the defeat of Bulgaria. They adopted Lenin's idea that war could lead to a revolutionary change in the capitalist socio-economic system.

3. The signing of the Thessaloniki Armistice on September 29, 1918

The coalition government of Prime Minister Alexander Malinov sends a three-member delegation to Thessaloniki, which includes politicians Andrey Lyapchev, Simeon Radev and General Ivan Lukov, to conduct negotiations with General Depre. On September 29, 1918, an armistice was signed to stop hostilities between the Kingdom of Bulgaria and the countries of the Entente. Under it, Andrey Lyapchev from the Bulgarian side and French General Louis Franchet Despres – commander-in-chief of the allied troops on the Macedonian front put their signatures. According to the armistice, Bulgaria must demobilize its army and withdraw from the territories occupied during the war and endure a partial military occupation by treaty troops. The Bulgarian troops stationed west of the Skopje meridian – about 90,000 people – remained hostages of the Entente. The German and Austro-Hungarian units are obliged to leave the country immediately. With the Thessaloniki Armistice, Bulgaria exits the First World War and practically loses its chances for national unification. With the signing of the armistice, the occupation of the country by Serbian and Greek troops was prevented. The main culprit for this catastrophe, Tsar Ferdinand, was forced to abdicate on October 3 in favor of the heir to the throne, Prince Boris Turnovsky (Bilyarski, Ts. [www. sitebulgarizaedno.com](http://www.sitebulgarizaedno.com)).

4. The signing of the Neue Peace Treaty on November 27, 1919 and the Second National Catastrophe of Bulgaria

In the summer of 1919, the National Assembly sent a Bulgarian state delegation led by Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Theodor Teodorov to the Paris Peace Conference of the victorious countries in the war. The members of the Bulgarian delegation traveled by train for eight days to the French capital. They arrived in Paris on July 27 and were placed under guard at the Chateau de Madrid hotel. For two months they were not allowed to leave the hotel without special permits signed the day before. Belgrade sends a memo to the French Prime Minister, insisting that the entire Bulgarian-Yugoslav border, from the Danube to Belasica, be moved from 20 to 70 km. into the territory of Bulgaria, taking over 13,000 sq. km. an area including Vidin, Kula, Belogradchik, Trun, Tsaribrod, Bosilegrad, Kyustendil, Strumica, Petrich and a population of half a million Bulgarians, called by Belgrade “purely Serbian”. Strategic security motives have also been highlighted as additional considerations. The Serbs also want 4 billion gold francs in reparations from Bulgaria. Greece claims Western Thrace, although 6 years earlier, in 1913, the by then Ottoman region was ceded to Bulgaria. In 1919, Athens decided to deprive Sofia of access to the White Sea. The Bulgarian argument that there is no change in the ethnic situation of the district remains irrelevant. On the morning of September 19, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France, Prime Minister Georges Clemenceau officially handed the Bulgarian delegation the conditions for peace, which were humiliating and unfair. In drafting the treaty, US officials opposed vindictive treatment of the vanquished, fearing that it would trigger another world war. President Widrow Wilson insisted that the principle of ethnic self-determination of the territories be respected in the post-war system, but no one heard him, since the victors “bathed smugly in their greatness” and knew that there was no one to condemn them for the amputations of the Bulgarian state! Clemenceau gave the Bulgarian side 25 days to submit their written objections to the Supreme Council, which, after considering them, would set a date for the final signing of the peace treaty with defeated Bulgaria. After returning to Bulgaria, Prime Minister Teodor Teodorov resigned as Prime Minister, refusing to sign the Treaty of Neuilly (Grebearov, A. 2009).

On November 27, 1919, in the town hall of the Paris suburb of Neuilly-sur-Seine, the new Prime Minister of Bulgaria, Alexander Stamboliyski, signed the Neuilly Peace Treaty. By virtue of its clauses, Bulgaria lost large territories inhabited by a compact Bulgarian population, which were given to its neighbors. The western outskirts – Tsaribrotsko, Bosilegradsko, Strumishko and a number of villages in Kulsko and Transko with a total area of 11,000 sq. km were handed over to the Kingdom of Serbo-Croatian-Slovenian. It includes 107 settlements, 123 schools, 45 churches with a population of nearly 100 thousand people. Western /Belomorska/ Thrace was taken from Bulgaria, with borders from the Mesta River to the Maritsa River, on which joint management was imposed by the Agreement. This area was later ceded by the Agreement to Greece. Romania retained its power over Southern Dobrudja, which it seized from Bulgaria after the Inter-Allied War – 1913.

The Bulgarians living in these areas were subjected to assimilation and terror, much crueller than during the Ottoman slavery. As a result, 120,000 refugees headed to the borders of old Bulgaria and joined 350,000 Bulgarian refugees who found salvation in our country after the Inter-Allied War. Thus, after Noy, Bulgaria bordered everywhere with territories from its ethnic land. For 37 years, regardless of the deplorable state of the national economy and complete international isolation, our country had to pay reparations in the amount of 2,250 billion gold francs with 5% interest on the balance and hand over 50,000 tons of stone to Serbia for 5 years coal and over 70 thousand large and small cattle of Serbia, Greece and Romania (Grebearov, A. 2009).

The Bulgarian army lost 115,000 killed and 150,000 wounded soldiers in the First World War. It was drastically reduced and reduced to 20,000 soldiers, non-commissioned officers, officers and clerks. Bulgaria was allowed to have 10,000 gendarmerie and 3,000 border guards, or a total of 33,000 military personnel. Conscription was abolished and replaced by a voluntary principle of conscription. The Bulgarian army is deprived of the right to own tanks, armored cars, cruisers, fighter aircraft, coastal artillery and submarine fleet. Our country is allowed by the Entente to have the following armaments: 219 cannons, 355 light and heavy machine guns, 38,065 rifles and carbines, 40 mortars, 207,600 shells and 15,833,534 rounds of ammunition – an armament that is completely insufficient to protect the independence and territorial sovereignty of Bulgaria. 1,265 cannons and howitzers, 353,241 rifles and carbines, 616 machine guns, 3,200,000 shells, 95,000,000 cartridges, 70 airplanes, 3 balloons and 140 motorbikes were handed over to the treaty troops. Bulgaria is forced to hand over all its military materials to the Allies. One part of the weapon and ammunition was exported abroad, another part was handed over to the White Guards Army of General Denikin fighting in Russia against the Red Army, a third part was destroyed in the vicinity of Vladaya, Darvenitsa and Bozhurishte, and a fourth part was sunk in the Black Sea. The aim of the Entente was for the Bulgarian army to have a weak combat capability and never to regain its pre-war strength (Mihaylovski, S. 1919).

Therefore, it is not by chance that the Bulgarian Prime Minister Alexander Stamboliyski, who signed the Treaty of Noyi, declared to those who met him at Tsaribrod station: “We are carrying a mortal”. Representatives of the political opposition in Bulgaria accused the Bulgarian delegation of not being able to negotiate more favorable peace terms for Bulgaria (Mihaylovski, S. 1919).

5. Possible revision of the Neue Peace Treaty

After the collapse of the Yugoslav Federation, Bulgarian historians, public figures and politicians raised the question of the peaceful return of the Western outskirts, based on the fact that Serbia was not recognized as the successor state of Yugoslavia and therefore the clauses of the Treaty of Neue favoring Yugoslavia had lost legal validity. you are a force. At the end of 2014, law professor Borislav Yotov published the book “On the Peaceful Abolition of the Neue Treaty”, in which he stated that there are 24 international legal reasons for the treaty's abrogation (Grebearov, A. 2019).

Conclusions

The Neue Peace Treaty of November 27, 1919 brought Bulgaria its Second National Disaster. The Entente countries rejected the basic political and ethical principles contained in the famous 14 points of the petition of the American President Widrow Wilson for a just peace treaty between the countries participating in the war.

Thus, the Paris Peace Treaty of 1919, instead of bringing lasting peace and justice in Europe, further strengthened the contradictions between the victors and the vanquished and prepared the ground for the Second World War. It was stillborn and, in its infancy, it was mined with hatred and revenge. It is not by chance that after its signing, Colonel Kriebel – military adviser to the German delegation, leaving the Hall of Mirrors of the Palace of Versailles, addressed the politicians of the winning countries with the words: “Goodbye gentlemen. We will meet again in 20 years” (Trifonov, St. 1989).

The neo-dictat of the victorious countries in the war has messed with the national honor and dignity of the Bulgarian people. He detached from the territory of Bulgaria entire areas inhabited by a compact Bulgarian population and joined them to the neighboring member states of the Entente. Southern Dobrudja was given to Romania as a reward for its participation on the side of the Entente in the First World War. Twenty-seven thousand square kilometers of the territory of Macedonia with a predominantly Bulgarian population were given to Serbia, and 34 thousand square km. also with a Bulgarian population were granted to Greece. Only the Pirin mountain with its 6500 sq. km is left within the borders of Bulgaria.

According to Art. 48 of the Neua Peace Treaty, Western/Belmorska/Thrace passes into joint possession of the Agreement, specifying that its “fate will subsequently be determined” by it. The main allied states of the Agreement undertake to guarantee Bulgaria’s economic exit to the Aegean Sea. About 180,000 Bulgarians remain living under the mandate of the Agreement. An autonomous regime was established in Western Thrace (October 15, 1919-May 28, 1920), headed by the French General Charpy.

At the peace conference in 1919, the USA, through its president Woodrow Wilson, categorically opposed the policy of Great Britain that Bulgaria should be severely punished because of its participation in the war on the side of the Central Powers. The USA defends the position that Western Thrace cannot be separated from the territory of Bulgaria. The British compromised with an autonomous Thracian quasi-state, but within the borders of the Greek state.

The proposal did not resolve anything and was rejected by American diplomats. France gave the idea of a free Western Thrace, including the Bulgarian minorities. This decision received US support from their representative Polk, but Greek Prime Minister Venizelos fiercely opposed it with the sole argument that it would separate Western /White Sea/Thrace from Eastern/Odrina/Thrace, which should be given to Greece by the victors of the war.

In the end, President Wilson, extremely dissatisfied with the short-sighted and vindictive policy of his European allies towards the defeated countries, left the conference and the US was formally represented by second-rate diplomats. Bulgaria, despite the withdrawal of Western/White Sea/Thrace, was given the opportunity to establish a territory under its rule in the White Sea.

The countries of the Entente propose to give our country a zone of 3 km. Length and 1 km. depth of the coast between Makri and Dedeagach, where it could build a port under its sovereignty, but the Bulgarian Prime Minister Alexander Stamboliyski refused this proposal, due to the lack of territorial connection of Bulgaria with the port.

At the San Remo Conference of the Prime Ministers of the Main Allied Powers of the Entente held in the second half of April 1920 (without the US, which refused to participate), Western Thrace was given to Greece, with the argument that it would have a territorial connection with Eastern /Odrina/ Thrace. In May 1920, the Greeks occupied Western (Belomorska) and Eastern (Odrina) Thrace and subjected the local Bulgarian population to persecution and cruel repression. On June 2, 1920, the French General Charpy left White Sea Thrace with his administration, and Greece began to settle Asia Minor Greeks in the area (Miletich, L. 1918).

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