

Bridging the Balkans

A centenary of diplomatic relations since the London Peace Conference
May 1913 – May 2013

16-17 May 2013, King's College London

Day 1: Heritage

10.00-11.30am

SESSION I. *The Balkan League Lost: The Balkan Wars and the Rise of the Nation State*

Chair: Professor Roderick Beaton (King's College London)

Iskra Baeva (University of Sofia)

The role of the Balkan Wars for Bulgaria's destiny in the twentieth century

Victor Roudometof (University of Cyprus)

Before and after the Balkan Wars: a comparative historical perspective on nations, religions and states

Rumen Genov (New Bulgarian University, Sofia)

The Balkans: united, disunited, reunited

Tea/coffee

12.00am-1.30pm

SESSION II. *Ethnicity: Remnants of the Ottoman Empire*

Chair: Professor Michael Kerr (King's College London)

Dimitris Papadimitriou (University of Manchester), George Niarchos (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki) and Argyris Mamarelis (Athens)

Between a rock and a hard place: the Pomaks of Western Thrace in the context of Greco-Bulgarian relations in the 1930s and 1940s

Vasilios N. Makrides (University of Erfurt)

Why are Orthodox Churches Prone to nationalization? A comparison of the Greek with the Bulgarian case

Spyridon Ploumidis (University of Athens)

The 'bourgeois' Greek vs. the 'peasant' Bulgar: social dimensions of the Balkans (1870-1912)

1.30-2.30pm lunch break

2.30-4.00pm

SESSION III. *Religion and the 'Macedonian Struggle'*

Chair: Dr. James Bjork (King's College London)

Vemund Aarbakke (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki)

Which nation should we fight for?

Bojan Alexov (University College London)

Religion and nationalism on the eve of the Balkan Wars

Maria Koinova (University of Warwick)

Ethnonationalist conflict in post-communist states: Varieties of Governance in Bulgaria, Macedonia, and Kosovo

Tea/coffee

4.30-6.00pm

SESSION IV. *Between the Wars*

Chair: Professor Robert Holland (King's College London)

George Tridimas (University of Ulster)

Neither defeat nor revolution: a political economy analysis of the deposition of the monarchy in Greece

Thomas Heinzel (University of Erfurt)

Illumination from the Balkans: esoteric millennialism in interwar Bulgaria and Greece

Andrey Pantev (Member of Parliament of Bulgaria)

6.30pm - Evening reception, sponsored by the Anglo-Hellenic League in its centenary year

Day 2: *Transitions*

10.00-11.30am

SESSION I. *The Cold War*

Chair: Dr. Vesselin Dimitrov (London School of Economics)

Stefanos Katsikas (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign)

The 'thaw' in Greco-Bulgarian Relations in the 1970s: a conscious diplomatic strategy?

Adamantios Skordos (University of Vienna)

'The Arch-enemy Pan Slavism': Greek and Italian anti-Slavocommunism in the Aegea and the Adriatic Region during the Second World War and Cold War

Svetozar Rajak (London School of Economics)

Tea/coffee

12.00am-1.30pm

SESSION II. *Post-1990: A new era in Balkan Relations*

Chair: Professor Christoph Meyer (King's College London)

Milada Vachudova (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)

Democracy, reform and EU enlargement in the western Balkans: Can We Hope for Sanaderization?

Othon Anastasakis (University of Oxford)

Post-1989 political change in the Balkan states; the legacy of the early illiberal transition years

James Ker-Lindsay (London School of Economics)

The EU as a factor of stability in the western Balkans

1.30-2.30pm lunch break

2.30-4.00pm

SESSION III. *Current prospects for South-East Europe*

Chair: Dr. Diana Bozhilova (King's College London)

Dimitar Bechev (European Council on Foreign Relations)

The Balkans and the EU crisis

Vesna Bojicic-Dzelilovic (London School of Economics)

Responding to economic crisis through regional cooperation in the western Balkans: opportunities and challenges

Theofanis Exadaktylos (University of Surrey)

The Europeanization of Greek foreign policy in the light of the sovereign debt crisis

Tea/coffee

4.30-6.00pm

SESSION IV. Ambassadorial Round-Table

HE Mr. Konstantinos Bikas (Ambassador of Greece)

HE Dr. Dejan Popovic (Ambassador of Serbia)

HE Mr. Konstantin Dimitrov (Ambassador of Bulgaria)

HE Mr. Ünal Çeviköz (Ambassador of Turkey)

Chair: Professor Sir Lawrence Freedman

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