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## A SHORT INFORMATIVE ANALYSIS ON THE BALKAN WARS IN TURKISH SCHOOLBOOKS

Balkan Wars are two successive military operations that deprived the Ottoman Empire from nearly all of its European territories. Both wars had taken many lives and has still had impacts on the people's lives even today. When we look at the textbooks in Turkey, we can only find no more than two or three pages which include little information given for memorization. For that reason, we enlarged our research and included internet resources for a better understanding of the Balkan Wars. Moreover, we added some pictures for better understanding of people's lives at that time.

<b>Date</b>	1912, 1913
<b>Location</b>	The Balkans, mainly the European territories of the Ottoman Empire, Aegean Sea
<b>Result</b>	Ottoman provinces gained by Greece, Serbia, Montenegro and Bulgaria
<b>Participants</b>	
 Ottoman Empire (First Balkan War)	 Serbia
 Bulgaria (Second Balkan War)	 Montenegro
	 Greece
	 Romania (Second Balkan War)
	 Ottoman Empire (Second Balkan War)
	 Bulgaria (First Balkan War)

### *Facts and Figures of the Balkan Wars*

#### **First Balkan War**

##### **CAUSES OF FIRST BALKAN WAR**

- After Turkey and Germany came closer, England let Russia to take control of the Balkans. This happened in 1908 in Tallinn Talks. British King Edward and Tsar Nikolai met there.
- Russia's historical desires over Balkan peoples. Most of the Balkans was Slavic origins. Russia wanted to take control of them.
- By gaining control of the Balkans, Russia wanted to access to warm-water ports.

- Russia's Pan-Slavism politics finished the problems between the Balkan countries. They came together and made an alliance.
- Ottoman Empire was weak and it was time to send him off the Balkan lands.
- Ottoman Empire was busy in Libya, fighting with Italians.

## **RESULTS**

- Ottomans were defeated by Balkan countries. The first war didn't last long. The defeat was very bad. Bulgarians came too close to capital city Istanbul.
- Ottomans lost all the Balkan lands.
- Ottomans lost Edirne (previous capital city before Istanbul).
- Muslim people living in Balkans started to migrate to Anatolia.
- Albania declared independence. It is the last Balkan country separated from Ottoman Empire.
- Ottoman army was divided by political views of officers and pashas. After the war, the army's situation was a disaster.
- Bulgaria benefited most. It reached Aegean Sea. Ottomans had borders with Bulgaria only.

## **TREATIES**

- London Treaty

Midye-Enez line was the border with Bulgaria. It took most of the Balkans and Thrace (Trakya).

Albania and 12 Aegean Islands were lost by Ottomans.

## **Second Balkan War**

### **CAUSES OF THE SECOND BALKAN WAR**

- Bulgaria took the biggest slice in the First Balkan War. Other Balkan countries weren't pleased with this situation.
- Greece and Serbia made an alliance. Romania joined them.
- Ottomans wanted to make use of this situation and attacked Bulgaria.

## **RESULTS**

- Bulgaria was defeated in all fronts.
- Bulgaria lost some areas. Turkey took Edirne and Kırklareli cities.

## **TREATIES**

- Bucharest Treaty
- Athens Treaty
- Istanbul Treaty

After the Second Balkan war, Ottoman signed treaties in order to protect the rights of the Turks who remained in the Balkans. During and after the Balkan Wars, nearly 2 million Turks and Muslims migrated to Anatolia.

