THE POSITION OF THE MONARCHY IN GREECE BY THE TIME OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR (1915): BALKAN AND SOUTH EUROPEAN PARALLELS

Spyridon Ploumidis

At the outset of the First World War, Greece along with other South and Southeast European countries found itself in a terrible dilemma of whether to go or not to war and on whose side. This dilemma divided Greece, Italy, Romania and Bulgaria along political lines. Practically, it shaped into a showdown between the monarchy and radical nationalist forces. In their efforts to stay neutral and/or to side with Germany and the Central Powers, the kings of Greece, Italy, Romania and Bulgaria faced fierce opposition from liberals, radicals, republicans and socialists. The German descent of the royal dynasties of the Balkans have a lot to answer for these divisions and confrontations. However, deeper forces and established dynastic interests lay mostly behind the pro-German stance of the kings of Italy and the Balkan states at the beginning of the Great War. The monarchs viewed the alliance with imperial Germany as a bulwark against revolution and a guarantee of social order and security in Central and Eastern Europe.

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Spyridon Ploumidis
National and Kapodistrian University of Athens
sploumid@arch.uoa.gr