

BULGARIAN PRISONERS OF WAR DURING THE GREAT WAR

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Abstract. *This monograph provides a historical analysis of the development of customary and codified international humanitarian law dealing with prisoners of war prior to the outbreak of World War I, as well as the history of Bulgarians held as POWs prior to World War I. It studies in detail the ways in which Bulgarians fell into enemy captivity both during Bulgaria's participation in WWI (1915- 1918) and after the war's end under the provisions of the Armistice of Salonica. It elaborates on the plight of Bulgarian prisoners held by the Entente Powers and compares the conditions of captivity in Great Britain, Greece, Italy, Romania, Russia, Serbia, and France. The monograph also specifies the various places in Europe, Asia, Africa, North and South America, Australia, and New Zealand where Bulgarian civilians and soldiers were interned and traces their fate, including successful and unsuccessful escape attempts. It examines the efforts of the Bulgarian governments and institutions, political parties, non-government organizations, and private individuals to alleviate their suffering and return them to their homeland.*

Key words: *Bulgarians, prisoners of war, Ministry of War, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Confessions, World War I, Armistice of Salonica, Treaty of Neuilly.*