

Ottoman losses fueled nationalist aspirations among Serbs, Greeks, Bulgarians

- Great Powers (Russia, Austria-Hungary, Britain, Germany) redrew map to balance influence
- Set stage for irredentism & ethnic tensions in multi-ethnic Ottoman Empire

The Balkan Wars (1912-1913)

Background – Decline of the Ottoman Empire

- Mid-19th century: Ottoman Empire called the "Sick Man of Europe"
- Multi-ethnic, multi-lingual empire in serious decline
- European powers planned to divide the weakened empire
- Turks unhappy with the Sultan due to foreign influence & corruption

Portrait of Sultan Abdul Hamid II (autocratic ruler).



Causes of the Movement

- Sultan Abdul Hamid II (r. 1876): Autocratic rule; briefly introduced 1876 Constitution but suspended it
- Treaty of Berlin (1878): Major territorial losses → increased foreign influence & chaos
- Growing Balkan nationalism: Bulgarians, Serbians, Romanians, Greeks demanded freedom

Formation of the Young Turks

- Began in 1891 in Geneva (exiled reformers)
- Blamed decline on Abdul Hamid's corrupt & oppressive rule
- Demanded constitutional government; inspired by liberty, equality, fraternity
- Operated secretly → formed Committee of Union and Progress (CUP)
- Key leaders: Niyazi Bey, Enver Bey

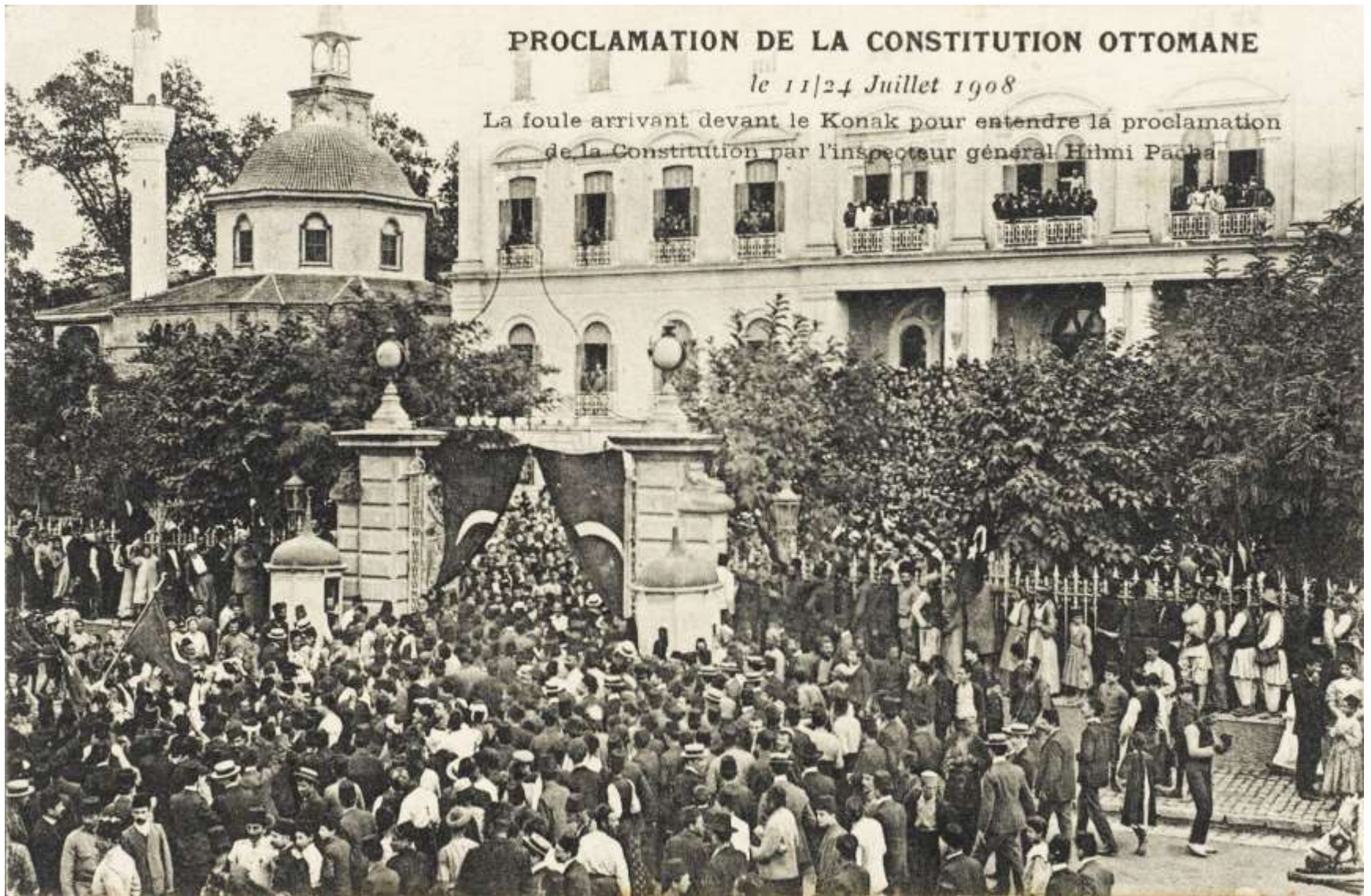
Niyazi Bey with companions (1908 revolutionary group)



The Revolution of 1908

- July 3, 1908: Niyazi Bey uprising in Macedonia demands restoration of 1876 Constitution
- July 23–24, 1908: Abdul Hamid yields → Constitution reinstated
- April 1909: Counter-revolution by Sultan → crushed by CUP troops from Salonica & Adrianople
- Abdul Hamid deposed; brother Mehmet V becomes Sultan
- Young Turks (CUP) rule effectively 1908–1918

Crowd celebrating the proclamation of the Constitution in Constantinople (July 1908).



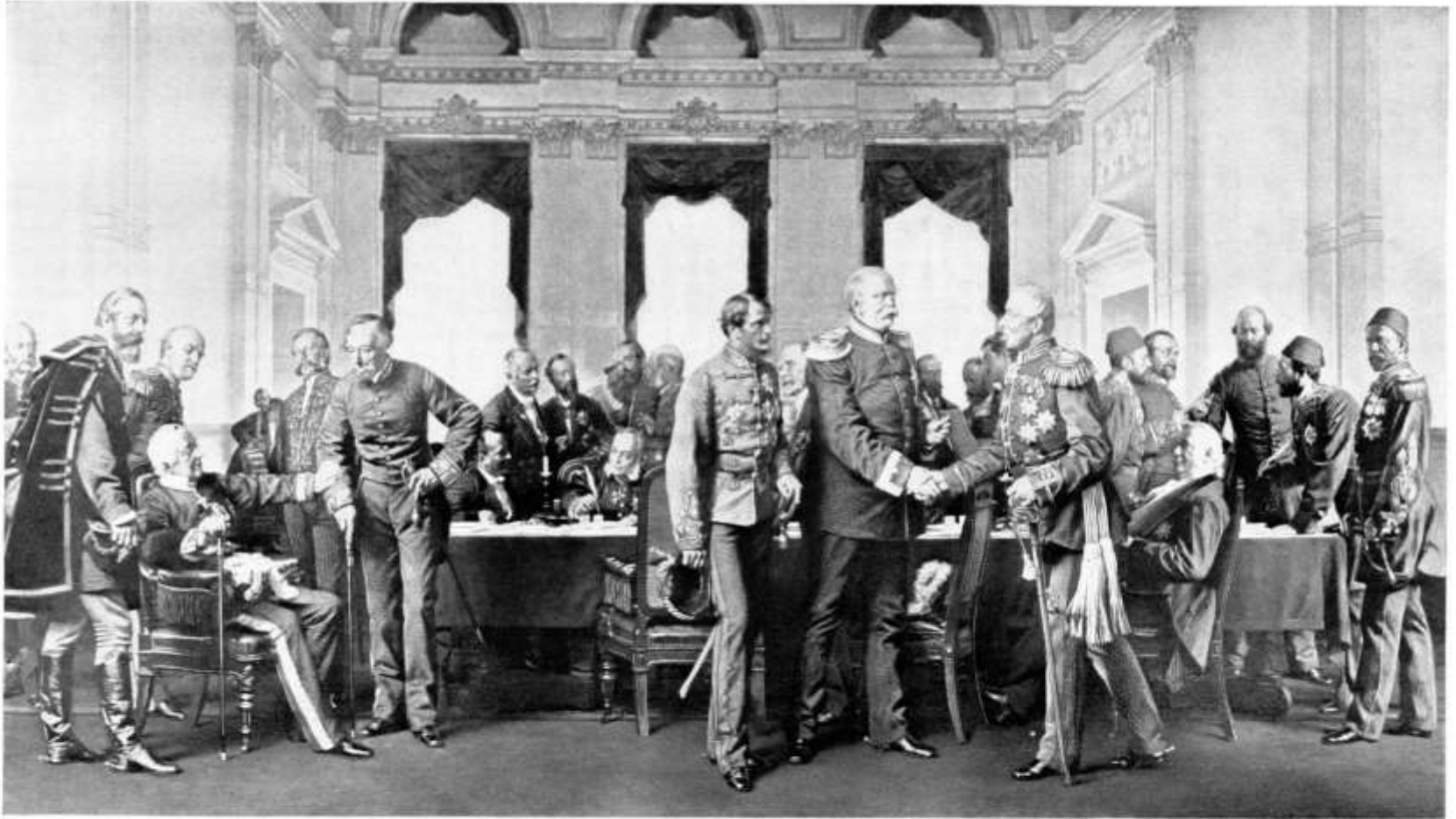
Immediate Impact of the Movement

- Turkification: Promoted Turkish language & culture to unify empire → alarmed non-Turkish groups
- Inspired Balkan independence movements
- Bulgaria declared full independence (1908)
- Austria annexed Bosnia and Herzegovina (1908)
- Centralization & minority suppression → revolts in Macedonia & Albania by 1910

Opposition to San Stefano

- **Britain**
- Feared Russian control of Constantinople.
- Threat to Mediterranean routes.
- **Austria-Hungary**
- Opposed large Bulgaria.
- Feared Slavic nationalism within its empire.
- **Germany**
- Otto von Bismarck feared Austro-Russian war.
- Wanted to preserve League of Three Emperors.
- **Others**
- Greece, Serbia, Romania dissatisfied.

Congress of Berlin



BISMARCK AT THE CONGRESS OF BERLIN, JUNE, 1878.—BISMARCK STANDS BETWEEN COUNT CORTI AND COUNT ANDRASSY, THE REPRESENTATIVES OF ITALY AND AUSTRIA. ON THE LEFT OF THE PICTURE, LORD BEACONSFIELD TALKS WITH PRINCE GORTCHAKOFF. LORD SALISBURY, THE PRESENT BRITISH PREMIER, STANDS IN THE BACKGROUND ON THE RIGHT.

From a photograph by the Berlin Photographic Company after the painting by Anton von Werner.

Congress of Berlin (1878)

- Held in Berlin, July 1878.
 - President: Otto von Bismarck (“Honest Broker”).
 - Participants: Britain, France, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Russia, Italy, Turkey.
 - Result: Treaty of Berlin (13 July 1878).
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- **Treaty of Berlin**
 - Greater Bulgaria divided into three parts.
 - Macedonia returned to Turkey.
 - Serbia, Montenegro, Romania independent.
 - Austria administered Bosnia & Herzegovina.
 - Britain acquired Cyprus.
 - Russia retained Bessarabia, Batoum, Kars.

Long-Term Consequences

- Compromise, not permanent settlement.
- Ignored nationalist aspirations.
- Created dissatisfaction in:
 - Bulgaria
 - Serbia
 - Greece
 - Macedonia
- Macedonia left under Turkish rule.
- Bosnia issue led to Austro-Serbian rivalry.