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MARKO D. BALABANOV AND THE LIBERATION OF BULGARIA
(Summary)

The article traces in details the work of the Bulgarian scholar, politician and diplomat Marko D. Balabanov on the eve and during the Russo-Turkish War of 1877 – 1878. It also reveals his contributions for laying the foundations of the new Bulgarian state. In the first part of the study the author pays attention to M. Balabanov's attempts to resume the Bulgarian diplomatic mission to the governments of the great European powers, which ended prematurely in early 1876. Then he focuses on M. Balabanov's work as Vice Governor of Veliko Tarnovo, Svishtov and Russe under the Interim Russian Government. Particular emphasis is placed on M. Balabanov's active involvement in various initiatives to protect the Bulgarian population which suffered during the hostilities, and to build a new civil administration in the country.