

**ALBANIAN DIPLOMACY AND CHAM ISSUE IN 1912-1939****Dr. Cand. Matilda Meta**

**Purpose:** The purpose of this aims is to shine as clearly as all aspects of diplomatic handling of the Cham issue in 1912-1939. So far there were no real studies on bilateral relations and particularly the treatment of international organizations.

**Methodology:** There will be a chronological flow of events going back in retrospect. Gathering information ranging from historical facts. Cham issue and generally the issue of the Albanian minority in Greece, was born with the decision of the Conference of 1913, which tore the Albanian territory, and he annexed it to Greece. We will see how the issue is handled in different Cham.

**Results:** Since 1913 begins a "pressure" constant, a policy "aggressive" systematic Greek State and various ultranationalist forces denationalization of this area. For this purpose were used many different ways: as land robbery, the exclusion of people from participating in public administration, education violent prohibition native language, even in elementary schools, murder, imprisonment, deportation violently to massacres bloody.

**Conclusions:** The study aims to:

- To shed light on the contribution of Cham in the proclamation of national independence.
- To show how were Greek policies toward the Chams in the period 1912-1939. As Cham reacted to these policies. Will also show if these policies were right or wrong.

**Key-words:** Diplomacy, Cham issue, the London conference, Justice, Independence

**ALBANIAN DIPLOMACY AND CHAM ISSUE IN 1912-1939****Albanian.Diplomacy and chronological flow**

If we take the analysis of Albanian Diplomacy with the unification of the Albanian state in 1912 and until 1939 period which we consider in this study, we observe that the Albanian diplomacy during this period is characterized by diplomacy "fragile", filled with problems. Diplomacy at this time has not the modern concept of the word "diplomacy". What should be evaluated in this period is that for the first time have the representation of the Albanian state in the international arena as an independent state and it comes to the Conference of Ambassadors in London in 1913.

Later in 1914-1918 have WWI times where Albanian diplomacy say that did not exist, because war is war and we have not diplomacy in this period. Historical events following the Peace Conference, which officially opened in Paris on 18 January 1919, where the issue was discussed Albanian. <sup>1</sup> Another important challenge for Albanian diplomacy was adherence to the League of Nations. A process that many difficulties had inside but assistance and willingness shown by the British government brought its acceptance 12 December 1920. <sup>2</sup> Albania's membership in the League of Nations brought many benefits in the field of diplomacy, where Great Britain at the beginning and, later, other countries such as France, Italy etc. established diplomatic relations with Albania. The creation of the League of Nations

<sup>1</sup> Valentina Duka, "Histori e Shqipërisë 1912-2000", KRISTALINA-KH, Tiranë, 2007, fq 133

<sup>2</sup> Paskal Milo, "Politika e Jashtme e Shqipërisë", TOENA, Tiranë, 2013, fq 129

hope for open diplomacy, for more justice for international security. But was it really so? Panorama of all historical events did not prove a thing.

Even after 1920 Albania had no objective or strategy governing its foreign policy. In contrast to other countries its main cause was not expand margins at the expense of its neighbors, but to protect them from these goals. Albania did not miss diplomats to do diplomacy, but being a small country seeking expansion others' expense "to her. History shows many facts injustices committed against the Albanian people. One of these cases is the "Cham issue".

### **Cham contribution to national independence declaration**

Cham. Region that constitutes the southern most regions inhabited by Albanians. Its northern belt Konispol center is part of the Republic of Albania, the rest, the decision of the Conference of Ambassadors in 1913, belongs to the Greek state.<sup>3</sup> Cham name is also associated with the ancient name of the river Thyamis (Kalamas) that traverses. In the years 1820 - 1850 Cham was included in the insurrections of anti-Ottoman. On 1854 and 1877 incursions Greek and arde gangs were met with guns from the population.<sup>4</sup> Cham issue and generally the issue of the Albanian minority in Greece, was born with the decision of the Conference of 1913, which tore the Albanian territory, and he annexed it to Greece. It is this period that begins with a constant pressure, a permanent policy of the Greek state and the various forces ultra denationalization of this area.

Over the years 1878-1881, branches of the Albanian League of Prizren in the genocide took part in the fight of the Albanian people for the protection and integrity of indigenous lands. During Albanian uprisings first decades of the twentieth century, Cham has been scope of patriotic fighting units and a series of national committees. During the Balkan War 1912-1913, in the genocide raced Greek troops. In support of the local population who had taken up arms, Vlora government sent military forces, but the decision in the Conference of Ambassadors passed Chahm in Greek state.<sup>5</sup> An injustice done to the Albanian people. After the end of World War 1914-1918 Greeks forcibly displaced and forced thousands of Albanian residents.

Cham problem arose for the first time in the tables of European diplomacy, as the problem of Epirus, on 29 June 1878, at the Congress of Berlin, the Foreign Minister of Greece, T.Deliyannis, who asked that the island of Crete, Thessaly and the mainland to give Greece from the Ottoman Empire.<sup>6</sup> For 31 years, Greece tried to advance the cause of Hellenization of southern Albania with education, religious power and terror to the military occupation of the province in 1912 and 1913. Chams have provided a significant contribution to the declaration of independence.

### **Policies followed to Cham 1912-1939**

Policies over the years for the Cham population have been too tough violation in this regard the General Convention of Human Rights. Greek attack in the genocide starts tragedy of the Albanian population in Greece. Meanwhile, the Conference of Ambassadors in London, in

<sup>3</sup> Fjalori Enciklopedik. Akademia e Shkencave e Shqipërisë, Tiranë, 1985, fq 149

<sup>4</sup> Kaliopi Naska, "Dokumenta për Çamërinë 1912-1939", DITURIA, Tiranë, 1999, fq120

<sup>5</sup> Kalipi Naska, "Çështja çame në Lidhjen e Kombeve në vitet 1920 – 1936", Arkivi Shqiptar, Tiranë, 2005, fq 200

<sup>6</sup> Kaliopi Naska, "Dokumenta për Çamërinë 1912-1939", DITURIA, Tiranë, 1999, fq 220

1913, it became clear that the Greek forces had won the Albanian law. World War, 1914-1918, and later military adventures and complete defeat of Greek in Asia Minor, 1921-1922, brought a new period of political tension in Greece that was transformed into aggressive military actions against Albanians in the country.<sup>7</sup> Cham situation in Greece is additionally difficult every day more. The opposite happened in Albania. Not only Greek speaking not follow, but they win all civil and political rights of free citizens. In early 1926 in Geneva Mayor Theodoros Pangalos, Greece made an official statement before the League of Nations with which Greece knew the Albanian minority in Greece and do not call me Mohammedan Albanians living in its territory as the Turkish population. He said among other things: "The independence and the status quo of Albania constitute great interest to Greece, because its policy is based on maintaining peace in the Balkans."<sup>8</sup>

Only in this period have been an improvement of the Cham population positive attitude held by the General and Prime Minister of Greece in 1925-1926. General Statement of the League of Nations Pangalos proves once again that he was a friend of Albanians declared but, above all, was determined to move forward with any way to improve relations between the two countries, hoping that normal political relations would bring significant economic benefits for Greece, with a view to economic rebirth and commercial development.<sup>9</sup> Statement of the President of the Hellenic Republic, General Theodoros Pangalos to exclude Cham Albanians of Epirus from the mass of the Turkish population exchange between christian greek and Muslim population was crucial to the performance of all issues.<sup>10</sup> These statements have improved for a short period of situation came as a result of connection that had Pangalos with Albania. He stated that it was proud to have Albanian blood and accept this with great pride.

## CONCLUSIONS

As discussed in this study "Albanian diplomacy and Cham issue in 1912-1939" is worth to note the contribution of Cham to achieve common cause for independence. For the first time we recognition of Albanian as an independent state in 1913 at the Conference of Ambassadors in London. Since 1913 begins a "pressure" constant, a policy "aggressive" systematic Greek State and various ultranationalist forces denationalization of this area. For this purpose were used many different ways: as land robbery, the exclusion of people from participating in public administration, education violent prohibition native language, even in elementary schools, murder, imprisonment, deportation violently to massacres bloody. It used genocide, not respecting human rights and is violating the Universal Declaration on the protection and respect of these rights. Despite misguided policies that Greeks used to Chams, the latter always respond with the same attitude.

Only during the years 1925-1926 have improved the climate. It is precisely Theodoros Pangalos which due to the connection he had with Albania sought to establish good relations as diplomatic. But then everything changed. The diplomatic communication began to fade again. One issue that has not been resolved even after many long that carries with it numerous problems not solved even today.

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<sup>7</sup> Miranda Vickers, "The Cham Issue -Albanian National & Property Claims in Greece", Emglad, 2002, fq 5

<sup>8</sup> Dokumente mbi Dinastinë Arvanitase

<sup>9</sup> Dokumente mbi Dinastinë Arvanitase

<sup>10</sup> Dokumente mbi Dinastinë Arvanitase

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