



THE BALKAN STATES, 1914

The frontiers of the Balkan States are shown above as they appear in the various treaties and agreements concluded after the wars of 1912-13 and the decision of the Powers to create the new State of Albania. The frontier of Greece was formerly a few miles north of Kalabaka and did not include Yanina. The new frontier nearly doubled the population and area of Greece.

One quality the people have always shown—an intellectual cleverness far beyond that of any of their neighbours. It may be said that, on a good many occasions, they would have been much cleverer, if they had not been so clever. But from the days of Homer till now, their intellectual superiority is undoubted. This it is which persuades a historian that the body of the nation is not Albanian, still less Slavonian, but Hellenic in the sense that we have always understood it. Whenever the moral qualities of the Greeks rise to the level of their intellectual acuteness they will certainly be the dominant race in the East of Europe.

Since King George of Denmark, Queen Alexandra's brother, was nominated by England, in place of Prince Alfred, elected by a majority in 1862, there has been no quarrel or revolution about the dynasty. The King's placid temper and good sense, and the ability of some of his Prime Ministers, notably of the younger Tricoupi, kept things quiet until 1897, when the perennial Cretan troubles brought about a wave of feeling in Greece which, assiduously fanned by politicians, resulted in the unhappy war with Turkey. Utter lack of preparation and complete want of any true sense of discipline had their natural consequences, and the Greeks were in the course of thirty days driven out of the whole of Thessaly to the Pass of Thermopylæ.

As a result of the unsuccessful war, peace was imposed upon the belligerents by the Powers, greatly to the disadvantage of the Greeks, who were obliged to cede to Turkey the southern ends of the vitally important passes on the Thessalian frontier. Crete, however, was permitted autonomy under the



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CRETAN PEASANTS, GNOSSOS

Crete, after a series of insurrections against Turkish rule, gained by the assistance of Greece and the Great Powers an autonomous constitution in 1897. The supreme power is vested in the King of Greece as High Commissioner of the protecting Powers. The inhabitants, Moslem and Christian, are of Greek origin and speak Greek



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GREEK PEASANTS, EPIDAUROS

The national costume retained for the highland regiments is still worn by some peasants. The red cap, wide-sleeved shirt, braided vest and jacket, and belt adorned with weapons, are familiar, as is the white kilt, which is the modern form of that belonging to the Homeric age.