

**Age of Rogues**  
**Rebels, Revolutionaries**  
**and Racketeers at the**  
**Frontiers of Empires**

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the chances of success – if not of outright victory over the Ottoman troops, then a prolonged defence until the mediation of the Great Powers – must have seemed higher with the presence of some 200 experienced fighters.

When news of these developments reached the palace, the Fourth Army command was ordered to organise an offensive against the revolutionaries before they could seek the intermediacy of foreign missionaries or diplomats. The palace also sent clear instructions not to involve the Muslim population in the military offensive; the sultan feared the involvement of the Great Powers.<sup>94</sup>

For the revolutionaries, Great Power interest and intervention in Sasun were crucial for the realisation of their goals.