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Shattering Empires

*The Clash and Collapse of the Ottoman and
Russian Empires, 1908–1918*

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Nor were the facts that Russia had added 400 more kilometers to its 450-km Caucasian border with the Ottoman empire and had even begun settling Slavs in northern Iran. Istanbul's

anxiety was not baseless. Russian strategists looking to the longer term concluded that control of the Anatolian plateau would be a vital asset in their competition with the other powers. It would give Russia the ability to dominate Iran, exert influence on the Mediterranean and the Persian Gulf, and threaten Britain's lines of communication to India and its other eastern colonies.³¹