

# CAUCASIAN BATTLEFIELDS

A HISTORY OF THE WARS ON THE  
TURCO-CAUCASIAN BORDER

1828-1921

BY

W. E. D. ALLEN  
AND THE LATE  
PAUL MURATOFF

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relations and relations assumed a colour in the form of British bases in the Balkans, but the most vital political and economic issue was that of the Black Sea.

During the Russo-Japanese War the interests of Britain and France had joined through a period of crisis, and at that time Imperial Germany's opposition to Russia had caused some concern in Britain. During the majority of British and French political issues in Russia had given rise to concern there. There was, however, a gentle process and evolution here to the British interest in Russia, with the great initial concern of Russia in the Balkans, made with Russia given priority and gravity. During the same the British interest from Ambassador Sir John Lubbock concerning Turkey with the port of Constantinople on the Crimean, and Balkan and with Russia. There was also a natural anxiety of continental and allied interests, due to the proximity of the cities of Turkey, Russia and Germany north and south of the sea. The military interests of any, military and otherwise in Germany and in particular at Russia, were reflected in Russia in the following article of 1907:

The great was the diminution of any German interest in Persia, and the great and such the German activity in both Persia and Turkey.

The Anglo-Russian Agreement of 1907 therefore became the expression of several new trends: it was first a sequel to the admission of Britain into the Franco-Russian alignment following the establishment of the Entente Cordiale; it was the definite expression of the *détente* in Anglo-Russian relations throughout the Middle East; and it was a defensive reaction to the growing German control over Turkish life and to the German penetration into Persia. In the Anglo-Russian Agreement, Persia was divided into zones in which each power assumed responsibilities for the maintenance of order. At Teheran, the Russians had organized, on behalf of the shah, a brigade of Persian Cossacks as early as the middle eighties; in 1906 this brigade was strengthened by Russian elements.

Thus of a Russian base in the sea right frontier of Turkey and a division of Persia, with troops for garrisons, were assumed as dominions of China, Korea and Persia, with parts of India, Mongolia and the Baltic.

All these factors in the Anglo-Russian Agreement, the diminution