

Shattering Empires

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

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At the same time that he had been restraining his fellow ministers from premature aggression and backing Charykov's efforts to draw Istanbul closer, Stolypin had been pushing for a build-up of Russian military capabilities in the Caucasus and of naval capabilities on the Black Sea. Reports in 1911 that the Ottomans were looking to purchase one or two dreadnoughts raised further alarms. Even if it was true that the Ottomans sought the advanced battleships for use on the Aegean against the Greeks, there would be nothing to prevent them from deploying the vessels on the Black Sea, where Russia's fleet possessed no comparable warships.²⁰