

MANIFESTO TO THE BULGARIAN PEOPLE (VELIKO TURNOVO, SEPTEMBER 22, 1908)

Upon the will of the memorable Tsar Liberator, the great brotherly Russian people, supported by our good neighbors, the subjects of His Majesty the Romanian King and the heroic Bulgarians, on February 19, 1878, crushed the chains of bondage which throughout the centuries had enchained Bulgaria, once so great and so glorious.

Since then and until today, a full thirty years (later), the Bulgarian People, unshakeably loyal to the memory of the national activists for its liberty and inspired by their legacy, tirelessly worked for the organization of their beautiful land and to create from it, under My direction and that of the (being) next to God, the late Prince Alexander, a state worthy of being an equal member of the family of civilized countries.

Always peace loving, My People today long from cultural and economic prosperity; in this respect nothing should hold back Bulgaria, nothing must obstruct its success. This is the desire of Our people. Such is their will to be what they want to be.

The Bulgarian People and their Head of State could not but think the same way and desire the same thing.

In fact independent, My state stumbles along on its normal and quiet development on some decrees with the formal tearing of which also the existing cool (relations) between Bulgaria and Turkey shall be removed.

I and My people are sincerely happy about the political renaissance in Turkey: She and Bulgaria, free and entirely independent from each other, shall have all the conditions (necessary) to create and strengthen their friendly relations and to (allow them to) devote themselves to peaceful internal development.

Inspired by this sacred act and in order to respond to the needs of the state and the people's desire, with the blessings of the Almighty, (I) proclaim Bulgaria, united on September 6, 1885, an independent Bulgarian Kingdom, and together with My people I deeply believe that this Our act will receive the approval of the Great Powers and the sympathy of the entire enlightened world.

Long live free and independent Bulgaria

Long live the Bulgarian People.

Issued in the ancient capital, Veliko Turnovo, on September 22, 1908; the twenty-second year of Our rule.

Signed with the own hand of His Majesty on the original: Ferdinand I

Co-signed:

Prime Minister and Minister of Public Buildings, Roads, and Communications: A. Malinov

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cults: S. Paprikov

Minister of the Interior: M. Tanev

Minister of National Education: N. Mushanov

Minister of Finance: Iv. Sallabashev

Minister of Justice: Dr. T. Krustev

Minister of War: Lt. Gen. Nikolaev

Minister of Trade and Agriculture: A. Liapchev

[Quelle: Blaustein, Albert P./ Sigler, Jay A./ Beede, Benjamin (Hrsg.): Independence documents of the world, o.O. 1977, S.94-95.]