

TREATY SERIES No. 12 (1920).

TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT

BETWEEN THE

BRITISH EMPIRE, FRANCE AND ITALY

RESPECTING

A N A T O L I A .

Signed at Sèvres August 10, 1920.

[WITH MAP.]

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.



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Tripartite Agreement between the British Empire, France and Italy respecting Anatolia.

Signed at Sèvres August 10, 1920.

THE BRITISH, FRENCH AND ITALIAN GOVERNMENTS, respectively represented by the undersigned Plenipotentiaries,

Being anxious to help Turkey, to develop her resources, and to avoid the international rivalries which have obstructed these objects in the past,

Being desirous to meet the request of the Turkish Government that it should receive the necessary assistance in the re-organisation of the administration of justice, the finances, the gendarmerie and the police, in the protection of religious, racial and linguistic minorities and in the economic development of the country,

Considering that the autonomy or eventual independence of Kurdistan has been recognised by them, and that it is desirable, with a view to facilitating the development of that country and the provision of any assistance which may be required in its administration, to avoid international rivalries in such matters,

Recognising the respective special interests of Italy in Southern Anatolia and of France in Cilicia and the western part of Kurdistan bordering on Syria, up to Jezireh ibn Omar, as these areas are hereafter defined,

HAVE AGREED UPON THE FOLLOWING PROVISIONS:

ARTICLE 1.

There shall be perfect equality in Turkey between the Contracting Powers in the composition of all international commissions, whether existing or to be established (including the different services dependent thereon) charged with the reorganisation and supervision in a manner consistent with the independence of the country of the different public services (judicial and financial administrations, gendarmerie and police) and of ensuring the protection of racial, religious and linguistic minorities.

However, in the event of the Turkish Government, or the Government of Kurdistan, being desirous of obtaining external assistance in the local administration or police of the areas in which the special interests of France and Italy are respectively recognised, the Contracting Powers undertake not to dispute the preferential claim of the Power whose special interests in such areas are recognised to supply such assistance. This assistance shall be specially directed towards enhancing the protection afforded to racial, religious or linguistic minorities in the said areas.

ARTICLE 2.

In accordance with the provisions of the Treaty of Peace with Turkey, the nationals of the Contracting Powers, their ships and aircraft, and products and manufactured articles coming from or going to the territories, Dominions, Colonies or Protectorates

of the said Powers, shall enjoy in the said areas perfect equality in all matters relating to commerce and navigation, and particularly as regards transit, customs and similar matters.

Nevertheless, the Contracting Powers undertake not to apply, nor to make or support applications on behalf of their nationals, for industrial or commercial concessions in an area in which the special interests of one of the said Powers are recognised, except in cases where such Power declines or is unable to take advantage of its special position.

ARTICLE 3.

The Contracting Powers undertake to render diplomatic support to each other in maintaining their respective positions in the areas in which their special interests are recognised.

ARTICLE 4.

The Anatolian railway, the Mersina-Tarsus-Adana railway and that part of the Bagdad railway which lies in Turkish territory as defined by the Treaty of Peace with Turkey shall be worked by a company whose capital will be subscribed by British, French and Italian financial groups. Part of the capital will be allotted to British, French and Italian groups in return for the interests that such groups may respectively have held in the Bagdad line as a whole on August 1, 1914; the rest of the capital will be divided equally between the British, French and Italian groups.

Nevertheless, in exchange for the whole or part of the interests owned by French nationals on August 1, 1914, in the Bagdad railway line, the French Government reserves the right to have conceded to it and to work the whole or part of the railway lines (including the Mersina-Tarsus-Adana line) which lie in the area in which its interests are specially recognised. In such event the share of French nationals in the company provided for in the preceding paragraph will be reduced by a proportion corresponding to the value of the lines which are thus conceded to the French Government. This right of the French Government must be exercised within twelve months from the coming into force of the Treaty of Peace with Turkey.

In the operations of the company constituted as provided by the first paragraph of this Article account will be taken of the particular rights and interests of the respective Governments which are recognised in the areas defined by the present agreement, but in such a way as not to injure the good working of the railways.

The Contracting Powers agree to support the unification in the near future of the entire railway system in the territory which remains Turkish by the establishment of a joint company for working the lines. The division of the capital of this new company will be settled by agreement between the groups concerned.

The company constituted as provided by the first paragraph of this Article, as well as any company which may be formed for the purpose indicated in the fourth paragraph, will alike be bound to comply with the provisions of Part XI (Ports, Waterways and Railways) of the Treaty of Peace with Turkey, and in particular to accord absolute equality of treatment in respect of railway rates and facilities to goods and passengers of whatever nationality, destination or origin. The French Government undertakes, in the event of its exercising the right provided for in the second paragraph of this Article, to comply with the same provisions in respect of any railway line so conceded to it.

ARTICLE 5.

For the purpose of the present agreement (*see* MAP):

1. The area in which the special interests of France are recognised is comprised within the following boundaries:

On the south:

From the mouth of the Lama Su on the Gulf of Alexandretta to a point where the northern frontier of Syria as described in the Turkish Peace Treaty meets the sea:

the Mediterranean Sea;

thence eastwards to the southwestern extremity of the bend in the Tigris about 6 kilometres north of Azekh (27 kilometres west of Djezire-Ibn-Omar),

the northern frontier of Syria as described in the Treaty of Peace with Turkey.

On the east :

thence northwards to the confluence of the Hazo Su with the Tigris,
the course of the Tigris upstream ;

thence northwards to a point on the Hazo Su due south of Meleto Dagh,
the course of the Hazo Su upstream ;

thence due north to Meleto Dagh,
a straight line ;

On the north :

thence northwestwards to the point where the boundary between the vilayets of Diarbekir and Bitlis crosses the Murad Su,

a line following the line of heights Meleto Dagh, Antogh Dagh, Siri-I-Siri Dagh, Chevtela Dagh ;

thence westwards to its confluence with the Kara Su (Euphrates),
the course of the Murad Su downstream ;

thence northwards to Pingen on the Kara Su (Euphrates),
the course of the Kara Su (Euphrates) upstream ;

thence northwestwards to Habash Dagh,
a straight line ;

thence westwards to Batmantash,
a line following the line of heights Habash Dagh, Terfellu Dagh, Domanli Dagh ;

On the west :

thence southwards to Yenikhan,
a straight line ;

thence southwestwards to Ak Dagh on the boundary between the vilayets of Sivas and Angora,

a line reaching and then following the crest line of Ak Dagh ;

thence southwards to a point due west of Seresek,
the boundary between the vilayets of Sivas and Angora ;

thence southwestwards to Erdjias Dagh (the point where the boundary of the Italian zone as defined below joins the western boundary of the French zone),

a straight line :

thence southwestwards to Omarli :

a line following the line of heights Erdjias Dagh, Devli Dagh and Ala Dagh ;

thence southwards to the confluence of the Tarbaz Chai and the river descending from Kara Geul,

a straight line ;

thence in a southwesterly direction to the bend about 5 kilometres southwest of its mouth,

the course of the river flowing from Kara Geul upstream ;

thence southwestwards to Perchin Bel,

a line following the crest of the Bulgar Dagh ;

thence southeastwards to the source of the Lama Su,

a straight line ;

thence to its mouth on the Gulf of Alexandretta,

the course of the Lama Su downstream.

2. The area in which the special interests of Italy are recognised is comprised within the following boundaries :

On the east :

from the mouth of the Lama Su on the Gulf of Alexandretta to Erdjias Dagħ,
the western boundary of the area in which the special interests of France are
recognised, as described above ;

On the north :

thence westwards to Akshehr railway station,
a straight line, modified however to leave the railway from Akshehr to Konia
within the area ;

thence northwestwards to Kutaya,
a line following the railway line from Akshehr to Kutaya (the railway remaining
without the area) ;

thence northwestwards to Keshish Dagħ,
a straight line ;

thence westwards to the most easterly point of contact of the southern boundary
of the Straits Zone with Abulliont Geul,
a straight line ;

On the west :

thence in a southerly direction to the mouth of the river which flows into the
Ægean Sea about 5 kilometres north of Skalanova,
the southern boundary of the Straits Zone, the northern, eastern and southern
boundaries of Smyrna, as they are described in the Treaty of Peace with Turkey :

On the south :

thence to the mouth of the Lama Su on the Gulf of Alexandretta,
the Ægean Sea and the Mediterranean Sea.

ARTICLE 6.

In relation to the territories detached from the former Turkish Empire and placed
under mandate by the Treaty of Peace with Turkey, the Mandatory Power will enjoy
vis-à-vis of the other Contracting Powers the same rights and privileges as the Powers
whose special interests are respectively recognised in the areas defined in Article 5 enjoy
in the said areas

ARTICLE 7.

All concessions for exploiting the coal basin of Heraclea, as well as the means of
transport and loading connected with these concessions, are reserved for the Italian
Government, without prejudice to all rights of the same nature (concessions granted or
applied for) acquired by Allied or neutral nationals up to October 30, 1918. As
regards rights of exploitation belonging to Turkish subjects, their indemnification will
take place in agreement with the Turkish Government, but at the cost of the Italian
Government.

Nevertheless, on the date on which the Italian Government or the Italian
companies shall have brought their annual production of coal up to an amount equal
to that produced as on January 1, 1930, by companies belonging on October 30, 1918,
to Allied or neutral nationals, the Italian Government agrees in a spirit of equity to
reserve for the Société ottomane d'Éraclée, constituted with French capital (in the
event of the latter not having previously expressed the wish to be bought out or to
abandon the renewal of its concession), a quarter share in the interest which may
be formed, once Italy or the Italian companies shall have reached a production of
coal equal in amount to that of the said Allied and neutral nationals as on January 1,
1930.

The two Governments will give each other mutual diplomatic support with a view
to securing from the Turkish Government the issue of fresh ordinances, ensuring the
exploitation of the mining rights conceded, the establishment of means of transport,
such as mining railways and every facility for loading, as well as the eventual employ-
ment of other than Turkish labour, and corresponding to the demands of modern

methods of exploitation. It is hereby agreed that all concessions, whether granted after or before the issue of the above ordinances, will be equally entitled to all benefits and advantages resulting from their coming into force.

ARTICLE 8.

The French and Italian Governments will withdraw their troops from the respective areas where their special interests are recognised when the Contracting Powers are agreed in considering that the said Treaty of Peace is being executed and that the measures accepted by Turkey for the protection of Christian minorities have been put into force and their execution effectively guaranteed.

ARTICLE 9.

Each of the Contracting Powers whose special interests are recognised in any area in Turkish territory shall accept therewith the responsibility for supervising the execution of the Treaty of Peace with Turkey with regard to the protection of minorities in such area.

ARTICLE 10.

Nothing in this agreement shall prejudice the right of nationals of third States to free access for commercial and economic purposes to any of the areas defined in Article 5, subject to the reservations which are contained in the Treaty of Peace with Turkey, or which have been voluntarily accepted for themselves in the present agreement by the Contracting Powers.

ARTICLE 11.

The present agreement, which will be ratified, will be communicated to the Turkish Government. It will be published and come into force at the same time as the Treaty of Peace with Turkey comes into force between the three Contracting Powers.

DONE at Sèvres, the tenth day of August, one thousand nine hundred and twenty.

GEORGE GRAHAME.

A. MILLERAND.

BONIN.