

March 3rd

BULGARIA

March 3rd , Bulgaria's National Day

On March 3 Bulgaria celebrates its national day.

This landmark day arrived to wreath a century of national revival and national liberation struggles of the Bulgarian people. Those struggles peaked in the 1876 April Uprising quelled amid horrible atrocities.

Russia declared war on Turkey in 1877. The war turned out more difficult than Russian Emperor Alexander II expected. Turkey summoned a huge army very well trained and equipped. In late July 1877 the Russian offensive was held up and the Turks launched an energetic counteroffensive. The Bulgarians volunteer unit provided supplies to the Russian troops, helping their passage of mountain regions, digging defenses and collecting reconnaissance data, fought side by side with the Russian army.



The battle for the Shipka Pass in the Balkan Range was crucial to the course of military operations. In August a battalion of Russian troops and Bulgarian volunteers withheld the powerful army of Suleiman Pasha attacking from the south. Despite its multifold numerical superiority the Turks suffered a catastrophic defeat, while the defenders of Shipka worked miracles of bravery. The Shipka battles became known to the world. Foreign reporters informed millions of readers about the course of the war. The free press vocally backed the liberation cause of Bulgarians.

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