

## **“Metaxas Line”: A wise choice or a costly mistake?**

The Metaxas Line was a chain of fortifications constructed between 1936 and 1940, along the line of the Greco-Bulgarian border, designed to protect Greece in case of a Bulgarian invasion. In April 1941 the German Army invaded Greece through Bulgarian territory and the first battle of the war took place in the forts of Metaxas Line. Despite their superiority in numbers, means and equipment, the Germans failed to break the line, so they decide to bypass it through Skopje and Axios valley, where no fortifications were constructed. The result was the occupation of Thessaloniki by the German forces and the capitulation of the Greek forces east of the Axios River.

This paper will examine the decisions for the line's construction, the forts' form, the cost and the role of Metaxas Line in the Greek military planning. An important part of the paper will focus on the criticism of both the construction and the usefulness of Metaxas Line through the available sources.