

# **“Revista istorică”, XXVII, 2016, nos. 3-4**

## **ABSTRACTS**

### **MODERNITY, MODERNIZATION, AND PROPAGANDA IN COMMUNIST ROMANIA**

CRISTIAN VASILE

Immediately after 1947 a process of political and ideological homogenizing of the entire Eastern Europe, including Romania, occurred. Therefore, the definitions of “modernity” and “modernization” borrowed the terminological rules of the Soviet political vocabulary. The concept of “modernization” practically disappeared from the political lexicons and even other dictionaries. It was somehow replaced by two other concepts, “progress” (or *social progress*) and “development.”

In this article I focused less on the re-conversion of intellectual elites and their role in various modernization projects. Instead, I underlined the evolution of some significant concepts (*i.e.* political modernization) in post-war Romania. It is not about semantics properly, but it is true that I was interested in the meaning of such words under the impact of propaganda and official ideology. One of my goals was to shed more light on the context in which such terms – modernity, modernization, and political modernization – came out or disappeared, and especially how such words were defined and understood in political dictionaries, secondary literature, and internal communist documents. Secondly, I tried to find out to what extent such definitions were in conjunction with a rigid/dogmatic Stalinist scheme or with more liberal cultural policies.

### **FLEEING THE ENEMY. CHILDREN AND PARENTS SEEKING REFUGE IN MOLDAVIA (1916–1918)**

ADRIAN VIȚALARU

The conflict occurring in the summer of 1914 was a “total war” in which the participating states mobilized all their resources for the military effort. The children, the women and the elderly were fighters on the home front. They often found themselves, however, right in the midst of events. The proximity of the front, the air force attacks or epidemics led to the home fighters being involved, with or without wanting to, in military operations, and consequently adding to the number of war victims. On many occasions, the children, accompanied by family members or teachers and tutors, as in the case of the scouts, were forced to leave their native lands in fear of the invader, seeking refuge. The present study analyzes, on the one hand, the

children taking part in the refuge of the Romanian population in Southern Transylvania, Oltenia, Muntenia and Dobrudja in the unoccupied territories of Romania, and, on the other hand, the way in which the displaced children from afar integrated in Moldavia. Another aspect of this endeavour concerns the placement, help and integration of the refugee children in Moldavia through the involvement of the central and local authorities and of the population.

**“ORPHANS OF THE NATION ...” INITIATIVES OF THE  
TRANSYLVANIAN ROMANIAN CHURCHES DEDICATED  
TO THE FIRST WORLD WAR ORPHANS  
(DECEMBER 1915 – AUGUST 1916)**

ANA-MARIA STAN

This article discusses the complex and difficult process of caring for the war orphans of the Transylvanian Romanian community during the troubled years of the First World War. Since late 1915 and early 1916 both the Orthodox and the Greek-Catholics of Transylvania planned to open orphanages dedicated especially to the war victims and consequently took various steps towards this aim. These charitable institutions were to function in two important cities of Transylvania, Sibiu and Blaj, that were equally places of residence of the highest religious Romanian authorities (the Orthodox metropolitan church was located in Sibiu, while the hierarchy of the Romanian Greek-Catholics resided in the town of Blaj, also known under the surname of “little Rome”). The project of the new orphanages mobilized numerous forces of the religious and laic Romanian elites, which debated the best course of action and donated significant sums of money or objects for their creation. Unfortunately, the evolution of the war hindered the completion of the orphanages, postponing their opening until the end of the military hostilities. The analysis of the various steps taken by the Romanians of Transylvania in favor of the war orphans offers new and interesting perspectives regarding the local social dynamics. It also provides a more comprehensive picture of the effects of the Great War on Romanian children.

**CHILDREN, PARENTS AND THE GREAT WAR IN THE  
ARCHIVE OF THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE**

CAMELIA ZAVARACHE

“The Great War” changed mentalities and social practices, reshaping the world that emerged after its end. The analysis of the documents in the Romanian judicial archives, during the last two years of the conflict, has shown that the relationship between parents and children was severely affected by the social and economical consequences of the war. Violence against children and their suffering were mainly the result of the conduct of their parents and close relatives. However, notwithstanding rare cases of infanticide and abandonment, adults, and especially women, struggled to provide them with care, while ensuring their own protection.

Despite these efforts, the children's well being seems not to have always been the most important factor in the decision-making process of their parents and guardians. Consequently, during the interwar period, the state authorities would start an important social campaign to raise awareness among the rural population of the importance of modern nurturing and pedagogical practices.

## **HERO CHILDREN. THE ROMANIAN SCOUT MOVEMENT**

ANA STERIAN

Scouting was one of the most important youth movements in the world. During the First World War, Romanian scouts helped the central authorities to overcome the difficulties of war. As refugees in Iași, the scouts worked in hospitals as nurses and tried to relay information from the front. Even though they were minors, scouts managed to overcome the horrors of war. Helped by the royal house of Romania, the Scouts were a role model for young future generations.

## **CHILDREN ON THE HOME FRONT DURING THE GREAT WAR. BRITISH PERSPECTIVES**

VALENTIN-IOAN FUȘCAN

This article deals with the topic of children's fate in Great Britain during the First World War. The British Government was concerned during this period over the consequences of the employment of children in the war industry. After the outbreak of the Great War, a significant number of children under 14 abandoned school to work in agriculture or in the ammunition factories. In 1917, the Parliament adopted the so called *Fisher Education Act*, a great step in the reform of juvenile education in Great Britain and an example for the other European countries.

## **CONFLICTS AT THE "PROCOPIE FLORESCU" ORPHANAGE IN TĂUTEȘTI (1892–1948)**

MARIUS CHELCU

The study gives a detailed description of a troubled period in the existence of the "Procopie Florescu" Orphanage from Tăutești, Iași County, 1932–1935, against the background of the deprivation caused by the Great Crisis. The author analyzes the development of the conflict between the school staff and the director of the orphanage, how the involved parties appealed to the higher institutions, the investigations carried out and the outcome of the issue.

**BELLANDI DESIDERIUM: AMMIANUS MARCELLINUS,  
THE MILITARY FACTOR AND THE CULTURE OF  
VIOLENCE IN THE FOURTH CENTURY**

NELU ZUGRAVU

This article analyzes the violence caused by the military factor in Ammianus Marcellinus' *Res Gestae* – an aspect circumscribed to a larger phenomenon, specific not only to Late Antiquity, which Polymnia Athanassiadi called “the culture of the amphitheatre.” After an introductory section, which comprises the author's stance regarding the value of Ammianus' writing as a credible source for the study of violence in Late Antiquity, and another one in which are stated the terms used by the ancient author to designate and depict violence and associated phenomena, three categories of violence generated by the military factor are thoroughly analyzed: legitimate violence, “illegitimate” violence and “violence of borders” (violence of war). For each of them, the causes, agents and specific forms are outlined (physical violence, verbal violence, psychological violence, economic violence; socio-juridical or economic degradation; self-violence, etc.). The conclusion of this study is that all these categories and forms of violence described by Ammianus, along with others, found in *Res Gestae* or in other sources, reflect an era of brutality, suffering and pain – therefore, an era characterized more as a “culture of violence” rather than a “culture of the amphitheatre.”

**THE IMPACT OF WAR ON MENTALITY AND BEHAVIOR.  
MEMOIRS FROM THE TRANSYLVANIAN WARS  
OF THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY**

ȘAROLTA SOLCAN

The present article analyzes the war impact on the mentality and behavior of Transylvanians in the seventeenth century, on the basis of the many sources that have been preserved. The author examines the testimonies of those who experienced the military conflicts of the early seventeenth century and those of 1658–1662. The study also takes into account the memoirs of Michael Cserei on the Tatar invasion of 1695.