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ABSTRACTS

**ROMANIAN ABOLITIONISM BETWEEN REFORMING
TRADITION AND EXTERNAL INFLUENCES**

RALUCA TOMI

The abolitionist movement in the Romanian Principalities manifested itself in the first half of the 19th century, being completed by the emancipation laws of 1855–1856. The present study proposes an analysis of the relationship between the reforming tradition from a social point of view and the external influences in the preparation of the public opinion for the adoption of the emancipation laws. The mixture of Christian precepts and Enlightenment ideas in demonstrating the necessity of the emancipation presents similarities with various opinions and attitudes which characterized the revolutions and revolutionary ideologies at the end of the 18th century and the beginning of the 19th century. On another occasion, the French, British and North American influences on the Romanian abolitionists were emphasized. This study presents the measures taken against the slave trade in the Ottoman and Russian Empires, as well as the liberation of slaves in Tunis, events covered by the press in the Romanian Principalities.

**THE ORIGIN, EVOLUTION AND FINALITY OF AN IDEA: THE
ARMENIANS’ RIGHT TO LAND OWNERSHIP IN MOLDAVIA**

MARIUS CHELCU

The present paper analyzes several memoirs regarding the civil rights of the Armenian community written by Iacob Buiucliu, a leading member of the Armenian community in Moldavia during the time of the Organic Regulations.

THE LAND OF A NEW BEGINNING. THE CHILDREN OF THE GREEK COMMUNIST REFUGEES ON ROMANIAN TERRITORY

RADU TUDORANCEA

The present paper addresses a previously unconsidered issue from the studies dedicated to the general subject of the Cold War. More specifically, this article concerns the subject of the Greek children who arrived in various people's republics (in this case, the People's Republic of Romania) in the dramatic context of the Greek Civil War (1946–1949). As a consequence of the evolutions during the Greek Civil War, an important segment of former fighters, their families, children and Communist supporters would arrive in the people's republics, the People's Republic of Romania being only one of their destinations. The first to arrive were Greek children of various ages, who arrived on Romanian territory since 1948. Overall, between 1948 and 1949, around 25,000 Greek children were transferred by the Communist Party of Greece (KKE) in various states of the Soviet bloc, the main motivation of the Greek Communist being that in this way they were sheltering the children from the horrors of war. The prevailing Western view was that these children were evacuated by force (in Greek – *παιδομάζωμα* – *païdomazoma*) in various states of the Soviet bloc, and in numerous cases these were kidnappings, although the Communist side constantly denied these accusations, attributing them to the propaganda maneuvers of the Hellenic *Monarcho-Fascists* in Athens and their Western supporters. The maximum number of Greek children on Romanian territory was recorded in January 1949, when 5,800 Greek children of various ages were in the People's Republic of Romania. Subsequently, their number decreased, following the measures of reuniting the Hellenic families, i.e. the transfer of some of the Greek children on Romanian territory in other states of the Soviet bloc. Afterwards, during the 1970s and especially during the 1980s, many of the Greek children, who were adults by this time, went back to Greece, alongside their families, once the new evolutions on the Hellenic political scene were favorable to a national reconciliation. During the stay of the Greek children on Romanian territory, the Romanian state took care of their raising and education, through the Red Cross and the Greek Committee for the Help of Children (EVOP).

The Romanian support offered to the cause of the Hellene Communists originated in a group solidarity; because of this common ideology, mutual support was not only a humanitarian effort, but also (and especially) an internationalist duty. In other words, the humanitarian dimension was joined by the political and emotional affinity between the regime of Bucharest and the Hellene Communists.

ROMANIAN-ITALIAN DIPLOMATIC HIGHLIGHTS AFTER ROMANIA'S ENTRY INTO THE FIRST WORLD WAR (1916–1917)

MIHAIL DOBRE

Romania entered the World War I on August 1916, based on a treaty with the Entente. In negotiating with the Entente, the Romanian decision makers had constantly in view the Italian model at least on two issues: the type of legal instrument Romania had to conclude in order to join that alliance, and the strategic content of the Romanian war declaration, respectively. Subsequently, Romania's war developments in 1916–1917, until the Bolshevik *coup d'état* in October/ November 1917, were accompanied by a continuous similarity of views and behaviors with Italy, despite the clear difference between the geopolitical traits of the two countries, the specificities of the fronts to which the two sides belonged, and the specific national interests the two parties were committed to promote. More than everything else, the need to ensure the strict observance of the provisions of their respective treaties with the Entente determined Italy and Romania to make a fierce opposition to each and every attempt from the Central Powers' camp towards concluding a separate peace. In general terms, the Romanian-Italian relationship continued to be a specific feature for the two countries after their, however separate, joining of the same alliance, the Entente.

BESSARABIA'S UNION WITH ROMANIA IN 1918 AND THE FIRST EXTERNAL REACTIONS TO THIS EVENT

ION ȚURCANU

The article deals with the external reactions brought by Bessarabia's union with Romania, on 27 March / 9 April 1918. The author describes, first of all, the aggressive attitude of the Russian Bolsheviks and Ukrainians against the union, then the interested support of the Central Powers and, finally, the position of the Allied Powers, especially of France, Great Britain and the United States of America, which oscillated, particularly at the beginning, then became supportive of the Romanian cause regarding Bessarabia's union.

DAILY RELIGIOUS LIFE IN SOVIET MOLDAVIA IN THE EARLY POSTWAR YEARS (1944–1949)

VALERIU PASAT

The territory we discuss in this article changed rulership several times in only six years (1939–1945) (being known as Bessarabia in 1939–1940, the Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic in 1940–1941, Bessarabia again in 1941–1944 and the Moldavian SSR again after August 1944). The transformations generated by the change in the administration regimes were accompanied by radical alterations in the

social structure of the population, the disorganization of the economy and attacks on the moral and religious culture and values of the population.

Between June 1940 and June 1941, the Soviet power attempted to turn into reality the so-called “cultural revolution,” aimed at removing the Romanian public education system, literature, media, culture and Christian traditions from Bessarabia. This process was resumed by the Soviet power in August 1944, special attention being given to the Christian religion. Two processes were carried out in parallel: 1) the removal of the Romanian influence in the Orthodox parishes and the restoration of the Russian Orthodox Church’s jurisdiction in Moldova, and 2) the establishment of the Soviet state’s control over orthodoxy. Based on less known or unpublished archive data and capitalizing on the latest historiographical contributions in the field, the present study attempts to reconstruct religious life in Soviet Moldavia in the early postwar years. A detailed analysis is presented for the problems caused by the exodus of the clergy in Romania, the repressive measures against the priests by the Soviet regime, the legislative measures of the authorities regarding the Orthodox Church and the activity of Bishops Ieronim and Venedict. With great efforts, the Moldovan SSR succeeded in restoring and preserving by the end of the 1950s a church infrastructure quite developed by comparison with the situation in the USSR, although more diminished than in the Romanian administration period.

THEFT AND ROBBERY IN THE SENTENCES OF THE CRIMINAL DEPARTMENT IN MOLDAVIA (1799–1804)

CĂTĂLINA CHELCU, SILVIU VĂCARU

The topic of our study is to reconstruct the judiciary practice in Moldavia at the end of the 18th century and in the first years of the 19th century, in terms of sentences given for the crimes of theft and robbery, based on the criminal research reports known as *anaforale*, drawn up between 1799 and 1804. These historical sources were elaborated in the Criminal Department, which represented the criminal court in Moldavia and which functioned under this name until the Organic Regulations.

In order to study this topic, we have used investigation models borrowed from western historiography, where criminality and criminal justice represent a very prolific segment of research. Furthermore, upon studying certain works on the topic of legal practice, we have found similarities in terms of punishments applied, such as the mitigation of the penalties post 1750 and a tendency to eliminate the death penalty from the judges’ rulings. In some cases of theft and robbery, such as repeated offences or extreme violence, death by hanging continued to be applied. In most cases, though, the death penalty lost ground in favor of other punitive measures, the most common of which was deprivation of liberty in the mine pits, where prisoners had to work in salt exploitation.

Such modifications within the punitive system were possible as an effect of the evolution of criminal power in Moldavia during the period in question. The loss of an asset or of a right as a punishment method began to be considered much more effective in terms of fulfilling the purpose of punishment than removing an individual from the society by sentencing him to death. For certain reasons, these changes within

the legal practice were only briefly outlined in Romanian historiography, but thoroughly studied in the western one (Michel Foucault).

NEEDED AND VERY MUCH SOUGHT AFTER. THE LAZARO-OTETELEȘANU SCHOOL FROM CRAIOVA DURING THE ORGANIC REGULATION PERIOD

NICOLETA ROMAN

The present study focuses on the first initiative made by a group of individuals to establish private schools in 19th-century Wallachia. Founded in the second largest city of the principality, Craiova, it was aimed at educating poor girls and providing them with adequate knowledge to get a job, become exemplary citizens and good mothers and wives, in accordance with the mentality of the time. The paper introduces the reader to the main issues with which such an institution was confronted in order to function: 1) the relationship between the founders and the state, 2) the situation of its staff and 3) of the pupils. It also argues for the importance of individuals and their networks of power in sustaining their establishments and, in this sense, the Oteteleşanu case is probably the most representative of its kind.