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ABSTRACTS

THE RELUCTANT ALLY. ROMANIA’S RELATIONS WITH THE CENTRAL EMPIRES AND ITALY AT THE BEGINNING OF THE GREAT WAR (1914–1915)

RUDOLF DINU

The alliance with the Central Empires (1883) was the underlying element of Romania’s foreign and security policy until the outbreak of the First World War. It was, however, not a perfect security instrument, since the national problem of the Romanians in Hungary, the original shortcoming of the alliance, evolved over time and embittered Romania’s relations with the Habsburg Monarchy as well as with Germany. Moreover, Romania’s intervention in the Second Balkan War and the Dual Monarchy’s refusal to support it in the conflict with Bulgaria made Austria-Hungary lose its supremacy over Bucharest in the autumn of 1913.

Romania’s security strategy was further transformed after the nomination as prime minister, beginning with January 1914, of Ion I.C. Brătianu, a Francophile, reformist and one of the most “active” nationalists of the moment. After Austria-Hungary’s July Ultimatum, the Romanian Crown Council, convened on 3 August 1914 by King Carol I, concluded with a majority that the conditions of *casus foederis* were not met, and declared itself for an “armed neutrality” of Romania.

Perhaps even more important than the decision on neutrality taken in August 1914, was the passing, in October 1914, of King Carol I, whose influence thus far had been important enough to prevent Romania from declaring war on Austria. The king’s death led to the reconfiguration of the decision-making unit: his successor, Ferdinand I, was an undecided character while his wife, Queen Mary, was the main advocate of the cause of the Entente. Prime Minister Ion I.C. Brătianu was thus free to manoeuvre towards the desired political direction and develop a line of negotiations with the Entente powers. Due to the similarity of the positions Romania and Italy had with regard to the war, Brătianu sought to reach a formal agreement with the government in Rome in view of organizing a joint military and diplomatic action. The two governments signed two agreements on 23 September 1914 and on 6 February 1915, pledging to maintain neutrality, to consult each other and to act jointly in case of changes in the international context, as well as not to abandon neutrality without at least 10 days prior notice. In the end, both agreements remained a dead letter and while Italy entered the war alongside the Western powers in May 1915, Romania continued to wait for “the right moment” for more than a year, until August 1916.

A PASSAGE TO MANHOOD: THE BOY SCOUTS OF ROMANIA DURING THE FIRST WORLD WAR

BOGDAN POPA

This article aims to analyse the birth, early evolutions, and involvement of the Romanian scout movement in the First World War. Seen as an alternative to static school education, scouting was meant to prepare the underage boys for the military service. Organised from 1914 by a group of adults (academics, teachers, officers), led by Crown Prince Carol of Romania, the Great Legion of Romanian Scouts took obvious steps in order to become an auxiliary service for the army. In the early part of the Romanian campaign of 1916, boy scouts were assigned to different positions previously held, especially in the cities, by then-conscripted men. After the fall of Bucharest, many boy scouts took refuge in Moldova, where they were placed in special colonies. The refuge became a cornerstone of the identity of the boy scout movement and one of the most controversial aspects in the debates surrounding the general retreat of the authorities and army in the autumn of 1916.

THOSE WHO RETREATED AND THOSE WHO STAID. SURVIVAL STRATEGIES DURING THE WAR (1916–1918)

RADU TUDORANCEA

The present paper aims to examine the most significant issues related to wartime survival strategies in Romania, particularly those which occurred during the occupation (by the Central Powers' forces) of a significant part of the Romanian territory. The study embraces several types of wartime survival strategies (going from individual and collective efforts, between 1916 and 1918) which were initiated and conducted by various strata of the Romanian society. It is worth mentioning that the Central Powers' occupation regime found a civilian population already living at the limit of subsistence in the occupied territory and the situation worsened with the scale of requisitions and various restrictions imposed by the occupation regime. The analysis, which draws almost exclusively on various archival documents related to the topic, particularly from the Romanian Red Cross Archive, reveals the plethora of survival strategies, as well as the consistent sense of ingenuity of the Romanian civilian population, during the devastating World War I experience.

THE ACTIVITY OF THE ROMANIAN WOMEN'S ORTHODOX SOCIETY IN OCCUPIED BUCHAREST

ANEMARI MONICA NEGRU

In occupied Bucharest, during 1916–1918, with the support of the National Bank of Romania and the Red Cross of Romania, the National Orthodox Society of the Romanian Women (Societatea Ortodoxă Națională a Femeilor Române – SONFR)

contributed to founding and ensuring the functionality of Hospital no. 113 located in the building of the association's Girls Institute. There, the injured soldiers were provided with medical assistance, religious services and courses for adults. Alexandrina Cantacuzino, Zoe Râmniceanu, Eliza Greceanu, Aristia Pompei and other members of SONFR also helped Romanian prisoners held in Bucharest camps, supporting sometimes their escape attempts.

The association ensured even in the war years the survival of its Girls Institute (Institutul de Fete), as well as of its schools in Bucharest and in other cities, where it organized popular canteens for helping the poor people and those whose breadwinners had been drafted in the army.

ROMANIAN-ITALIAN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS DURING THE NEUTRALITY PERIOD (1914–1915)

MIHAIL DOBRE

The Romanian-Italian diplomatic relationships during the period of neutrality until the signing of the Treaty of London on Italy's entry into war were characterized by many common elements of international political strategies. This led the two states to reach agreements that were meant to create the basis for further developments during the war. However, this common position also had limits determined by the elements specific to each party. A further distinction between Romania and Italy comes from the way the two states ended their neutrality, after negotiations that had distinct courses and at different times in the history of World War I.

However, Italy's entry into war proved to be full of consequences for the future stance of the Romanian state. The agreement signed by Italy with the Entente set a model to which the Romanian side could aspire and opened the way for negotiations with Romania. Despite the general reaction of dissatisfaction in Bucharest after the authorities in Rome had decided to enter the war alone, Italy's action inspired the way the Romanian side promoted its interests and motivated its decisions on joining the Entente.

MEMORIALISTIC ASPECTS OF FIRST WORLD WAR FOLKLORE IN NĂSĂUD

IULIU-MARIUS MORARIU

The present article attempts to investigate matters found in the memoirs of First World War folklore from Năsăud. The study is based on the most important works of folk in that period, recorded in different studies and collections compiled during or in the immediate aftermath of the war (collected by authors such as Iuliu Moisil or Liviu Păiuș) or later, or preserved in various manuscripts kept in the County National Archives Services from Bistrița-Năsăud. We try to put forward a new approach to investigating the research topic, providing an analysis of an important facet of this genre through which the image of the Great War was perpetuated until

today. Unlike classic memoir writing, folklore allows the reproduction of a reality which is more complex and protected from censorship than the correspondence from the front. On the other hand, it offers a dynamic perspective of the authors' feelings, providing valuable information whose recovery is required by recurrence. In the area under scrutiny, large-scale information and its wealth offer the possibility of extensive further investigations that could draw on information from historiography and the psychological profile of the authors (usually participants in war), as well as literary and ethnographic aspects.

ROMANIAN SOCIETY IN THE EYES OF RENÉ CHAMBE: BETWEEN THE GREAT WAR AND THE SOCIALIST REGIME

RALUCA TOMI

The paper discusses the work of General René Chambe, pilot on the Romanian front in the First World War, one of the presidents of the "Poftim" association, founded by the former members of the French military mission in Romania, and a member of the delegation invited to participate in the commemoration of the Mărășești Battle in the summer of 1957. His memories of Romania, immortalized in novels or memoirs, bring precious information about the everyday life of the period of retreat in Moldova in the winter of 1917, the state of the Romanian army, its relations with the Russian army around the great battles in the summer of the same year, as well as little known episodes about the organization of the hospital in Ghidigeni. Corroborated with other sources, the writings of the French general are interesting testimonies about an episode less explored by historiography: the visit of a delegation made up of former members of the Berthelot mission in August 1957 in Romania, an opportunity to know directly the reality of the socialist state.

IDEOLOGY AND HISTORIOGRAPHY: AGITPROP AND THE WORLD WAR I ISSUE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE COMMUNIST REGIME (1947–1956)

CRISTIAN VASILE

This article's aim is to shed more light on the Romanian Agitation and Propaganda Department (Agitprop)'s perspective during the first communist decade over the World War I issues. I chose this time frame due to the fact that in the Romanian historical writing of this period (1947–1956) the prevailing theses were those of Mihail Roller on the imperialist character of bourgeois Romania's involvement in World War I. Mihail Roller was the deputy chief of Agitprop, the main ideological section of the Romanian Workers' Party's Central Committee (led by Leonte Răutu, Roller's friend and ideological patron).

On the other hand, in the mid-1950s some „heretical” points of view and historiographical narratives, which, in the eyes of the Agitprop, threatened to break the ranks of the Romanian historical front, timidly came to light.

The present study focuses on the content of Mihail Roller's edited historical textbooks (from 1947 until 1956) and the Agitprop's attempts at maintaining the main narrative established during High Stalinism, *i.e.* 1948 and 1952, regarding the World War I and Romania's involvement, labeled as "imperialist." Such narrative was challenged especially after 1955 when M. Roller lost his position in the Agitprop and the old historians sent complaints to the communist party leadership describing his abuses within the Romanian historiographical community.

In the end I argued the importance of the so-called Hungarian factor as a shock wave for the Romanian politics and culture, modifying in the late 1950s both the contents of the main history textbooks and the historical writing.

GERMAN ADMINISTRATION IN THE *OBER OST* TERRITORIES

RAUL DENIZE

Ober Ost was an administrative experiment that had extremely important long-term repercussions. Policies applied in the region have shaped the perception that the German occupiers had formed about the territory and its indigenous peoples. The obsession for organization and control did not have the expected results, and only served to provoke the hostility of those who had to join the grand project of *Deutsche Arbeit* (German Labor). Consolidating the idea that the Germans were superior in all respects to the inhabitants of the East (the East being identified with chaos, misery, and war-induced suffering) represented an inheritance whose outcome was best seen during the Nazi regime.

THE ROMANIAN OCCUPATION IN HUNGARY (AUGUST–NOVEMBER 1919) – A REASSESSMENT

LUCIAN LEUȘTEAN

Contemporary historiography still needs an overview and an assessment of the Romanian occupation in Hungary during the summer and autumn of 1919. New archival findings allow us to revisit some opinions forwarded 15 years ago, especially for launching a new historiographical dialogue. It will be probably impossible to establish exactly what the Romanian state lost during the German and Austrian-Hungarian occupation in 1916–1918, as well as what Romania gained during the occupation in Hungary in August–November 1919, but we may suppose that the Romanians were not able to recover in a few months all they had lost in a few years. Anyway, we think that their gains were more considerable than the Romanian historiography accepted afterwards. But, at the same time, we believe that the Hungarian evaluations about the Romanian gains were grossly exaggerated. This essay is an attempt to find an adequate assessment as well as a proposal for historiographical deliberation.

BYZANTIUM AND THE MUSLIMS PRIOR TO 1345 SEEN FROM VENICE, ACCORDING TO THE CHRONICLE ASCRIBED TO CAMILLO ABBIOSI OF RAVENNA

ȘERBAN V. MARIN

Among the around 2,000 codices representing the Venetian chronicles written between the 11th and 18th centuries, we selected the chronicle ascribed to a certain Camillo Abbiosi of Ravenna, written in the 16th century. The present paper makes a description of the manuscript at the Marciana National Library in Venice, getting involved in the clarifications referring to its paternity and dating. It also insists upon the sources and influences that this work had in connection with other Venetian chronicles. This paper presents *in extenso* the fragments in the chronicle that deal with the relations of Venice with Byzantium and the Muslims prior to 1345.

***HISTORY OF ŠĆEPAN MALI* WRITTEN BY STJEPAN ZANOVIĆ AND ITS INFLUENCE ON THE IMAGE OF THE MONTENEGRINS IN FRANCE BEFORE THE CREATION OF THE ILLYRIAN PROVINCES**

WOJCIECH SAJKOWSKI

Knowledge about the Southern Slavs in eighteenth-century France was always connected with the political affairs of the region. At the end of the seventh decade of the eighteenth century, Montenegro is mentioned in European newspapers owing to the reign of Šćepan Mali. He was an adventurer of South-Slavic origin, who claimed to be Tsar Peter III, murdered on the orders of Catherine II. In fact, he was able to convince the Montenegrins as to his identity and thus in 1767 he managed to assume power over a country plunged into anarchy due to the earlier strife between the various tribes.

In 1784 an anonymous book was published, entitled *Stiepan-Mali, c'est à dire Etienne-Petit ou Stefano-Piccolo le Pseudo Pierre III. Empereur de Russie, qui parut dans le grand-Duché de Monténégro, situé entre la mer Egée, l'Albanie Turque & le golfe Adriatique, en 1767, 1768 & 1769*. The portrayal of Šćepan Mali, an impostor and an adventurer, was written by another adventurer and impostor, the fake "Prince of Albania," Stjepan Zanović. This work has been attributed to Zanović by contemporary scholars, but commentators of the eighteenth century also suspected that he was in fact the author of this book. This work – like most of the texts published by Zanović – was written in French and was commented in the French press. The aforementioned book was one of the publications which introduced Montenegro to French readers during the Enlightenment.

The purpose of this paper is to show that the subject chosen by Zanović is not only related to his political aspirations, but also a part of the picturesque image of the "Orient of Europe," which began to take shape gradually in France in the second half of the eighteenth century, and turned afterwards into the romantic image of the Balkans. The history of Šćepan Mali was accompanied by a description of Montenegro. The author describes the geography of the country, its government, and

the customs of the Montenegrins. Most of these pieces of information had never been published in encyclopedias, dictionaries or in any other type of work. On the other hand, the Montenegrins described in Zanović's book evoke an image already known by the Enlightened reader. The author writes from the perspective of the Western observer and repeats the clichés attributed in the eighteenth century to the peoples of Eastern Europe ("The purity of morals of the Montenegrins far surpasses that which exists today among civilized nations"). In fact, the description of the customs of the Montenegrins has much in common with the image of the Morlachs described by Alberto Fortis in *Viaggio in Dalmatia*.