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DIN IA I
(SERIE NOU)

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Cuvânt înainte

Articolele din acest număr tematic reprezintă comunicările susținute la conferința internațională: **Marea Unire a Românilor (1918) – Istorie și Actualitate**, organizată la Iași, în perioada 22-24 martie 2018, de Facultatea de Istorie a Universității „Alexandru Ioan Cuza” din Iași, în colaborare cu Institutul de Istorie „Nicolae Iorga” din București, Facultatea de Istorie și Filosofie a Universității de Stat din Moldova, Facultatea de Istorie a Universității din București, Facultatea de Istorie și Filosofie a Universității Babe-Bolyai din Cluj-Napoca, Institutul de Istorie „A. D. Xenopol” din Iași, Institutul de Istorie din Chișinău și Serviciul de Stat de Arhiv al Republicii Moldova, **în parteneriat cu Primăria Municipiului Iași – Departamentul Centenar**, Institutul Cultural Român, Institutul Român de Cultură și Cercetare Umanistică de la Veneția, Accademia di Romania in Roma, Institutul Eudoxiu Hurmuzachi pentru românii de pretutindeni. La acest eveniment, au participat aproximativ 70 de cercetători și profesori din România (Iași, București, Cluj-Napoca, Constanța, Târgoviște), Republica Moldova (Chișinău), Austria, Elveția, Franța, Germania, Italia și SUA (pentru programul complet, vezi: (<http://history.uaic.ro/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Great-Union-of-1918-Iasi-final-program-m.pdf>)).

Prin comunicările prezentate și discuțiile ce au urmat, au fost aprofundate teme precum: mișcarea națională din Basarabia în preajma Marii Uniri din 1918, diplomație și propagandă în vremea Marelui Război, recunoașterea internațională a Marii Uniri, urmările războiului în societatea românească, istoriografia Marii Uniri de la 1918, dar și noile realități geopolitice după 100 de ani de la sfârșitul Primului Război Mondial. Secțiunile din revistă continuă, în mare parte, temele cercetate: pe de o parte, **Premisele Marii Uniri: Diplomație, mișcarea națională, propagandă înainte și în vremea Primului Război Mondial; Biserică, coală, presă**, iar pe de altă parte **Realizarea și destinul Marii Uniri din 1918: Realizarea și recunoașterea internațională a Marii Uniri; Urmările războiului; Scriitorii, istoriografie, presă memorie**.

Conferința din martie 2018 s-a deschis cu un grupaj de prezentări de carte, iar unele dintre acele titluri au fost cuprinse în secțiunea **Recenzii și note bibliografice**, alături de alte câteva dintre aparițiile editoriale din ultimii ani, care prin subiectele propuse se circumscriu problematicii participării României la Război, Marii Uniri din 1918 și recunoașterea internațională a acesteia.

Dorim să mulțumim câtorva persoane și instituții care s-au aflat alături de noi, în diverse momente, fără de care organizarea conferinței și apariția acestui număr special din revista Facultății de Istorie nu ar fi fost posibile. În primul rând, domnului Mihai Chirica, Primarul Municipiului Iași, care a sprijinit manifestările tiințifice organizate de Facultatea noastră, domnului dr. Daniel Andruș, coordonatorul Programului Centenar al Primăriei Municipiului Iași, domnului prof. univ. dr. Rudolf Dinu, directorul Accademiei di Romania in Roma, domnului dr. Ovidiu Cristea, directorul Institutului de Istorie „Nicolae Iorga”, colegilor: prof. univ. dr. Lucian Leuștean, prof. univ. dr. Lucrețiu Bîrliba, prof. univ. dr. Laurențiu Răducan, conf. univ. dr. Ovidiu Buruiană și conf. univ. dr. Ionuț Nistor. De asemenea, dorim să mulțumim conducerii Universității „Alexandru Ioan Cuza”, doamnei prof. univ. dr. Mihaela Onofrei, ordonator de credite, pentru sprijinul acordat la organizarea conferinței.

Petronel Zahariuc, Adrian-Bogdan Ceobanu, Adrian Vișalariu

Alexandru ZUB*

National unity: from idea to act

Abstract

Without the national “awakening” in late 18th century and early 19th century, without the substantial ideological contribution of the Transylvanian-based scholars, who dedicated their erudition and their regenerative enthusiasm to the Romanian cause, without the specific fermentation of innovative ideas and hopes that fecundated our world at that time, the union could not be understood. What began as an instinct, an obscure feeling, a vague aspiration, became a coherent discourse and a political programme over time, whose fulfilment only waited for the collaboration of time, always necessary during great events.

Keywords: union; national “awakening”; Transylvania; Romania.

(A UI, s.n., Istorie, LXIV (2018), p. 15-19).

Paul E. MICHELSON**

Teleological History and the Romanian Past: Just Say “No!”

Abstract

Many writers have taken a teleological approach to the unification of the Romanian lands (Transylvania, Moldova, Muntenia, Basarabia, and Bucovina) in 1918, describing it as an inevitable working out of historical development or as a kind of “historical necessity.” Apart from the fact that teleology and inevitability lack validity in historiographical discourse, such an interpretation of the events of 1918 also denigrates the actions of those who contributed to the union of 1918. Rejecting these non-historical approaches to the Romanian unions of 1859 and 1918, this paper presents a comparative analysis of the historical, political, cultural, and geographical circumstances of the Romanians in 1859 and 1918, the key players, and the critical events that resulted in partial unification of the Romanian lands in 1859 and the creation of Greater Romania in 1918.

Keywords: Romania; historiography; teleological historicism; William H. McNeill.

(A UI, s.n., Istorie, LXIV (2018), p. 21-42).

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Valentin NAUMESCU*

**A hundred years after. Romania in the new European order.
From multilateralism to minilateralism?**

Abstract

In a moment of great questions regarding the future of the European Union and the impact of predicted reforms – which happen to overlap the Centenary of the end of World War I, and for the Romanian nation in particular the Centenary of the Great Union – a reflection on the position of Romania in the current European political process is necessary, from the perspective of theories and instruments of the international relations. Both the realist and the liberal approach underline the crucial significations of current evolutions, where the ascension of revisionist, nationalist, protectionist and Eurosceptic currents confront ever more visibly the consecrated paradigm of the postwar European Project and of the global liberal order. Minilateralism becomes, as days go by, a concept with as many opportunities, as challenges and risks. This endeavour proposes to investigate the solidity of Romania's articulation in the system of the bilateral and multilateral relations within the European Union, related to the dynamic of the relations between the Great European and global Powers and to the regional arrangements in Central Europe.

Keywords: multilateralism; minilateralism; global order; European Union; protectionism.

(A UI, s.n., Istorie, LXIV (2018), p. 43-51).

I. Premises of the Great Union from 1918

**I.1. Diplomacy, national movement and propaganda
before and during the First World War**

Dumitru VITCU**

**The diplomat Mihail Kog Iniceanu and the beginnings
of the national coming together: Dobrudja (1878)**

Abstract

The Eastern crisis of 1875 to 1878 found Romania in an unhappy position: the events of those years could offer no positive rewards or opportunities equal to the dangers that

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threatened. Despite the fact that Romanian leaders could hope to gain few advantages from the imminent Russian-Turkish war, on the basis of Russian-Romanian Convention of April 4/16, 1877, finally, they were forced to recognize the realities of the European arrangements made by the stipulations of Treaty of Berlin (1878). The Romanian fears over the loss of southern Bessarabia (Cahul, Bolgrad and Ismail districts) were fully realized, and gain of Dobrudja was not considered an adequate compensation. Although Romania was recognized as an independent state, and received – in change for those three Bessarabian districts – a much more important territory from many point of view, Dobrudja, which meant the first steps on the way of making the Great Romania, the state of spirit among not only their leaders, but also entire political class was rather strange. This paper underlined some public or particular opinions, actions or decisions of Romanian political leaders, beginning with Mihail Kogalniceanu, in his capacity of minister of Foreign Affairs, during the Russian-Turkish war (1877-1878) and after, on Dobrudja subject, including, of course, the state of Romanian-Russian relations in those circumstances.

Keywords: War; Diplomacy; Dobrudja; Carol I; Mihail Kogalniceanu; Bessarabia; Russia; Romanian Government.

(A UI, s.n., Istorie, LXIV (2018), p. 55-63).

Gheorghe NEGRU*

Stages of the national movement in Bessarabia (1812-1918)

Abstract

This paper presents a general view of the main phases of the national movement of Bessarabian Romanians during 1812-1918. The author relies, for the main part, on his own research, based on unedited documents discovered in archives in the Republic of Moldova, Russia, and Romania. Starting from the “structural phases” that characterize nationalist movements, according to the Czech scholar Miroslav Hroch, the author reviews several stages: 1) 1812 – late 19th century/early 20th century (Phase A); as parts of this long stage, other two periods have qualitative differences: 1) 1812 – late 1850s; 2) early 1860s – late 19th/early 20th century; the union of Romanian Principalities in 1859 and the creation of the national modern Romanian state determined, on one hand, the intensification of the national Romanian feeling among the Bessarabian Moldavian intellectuals and nobles, the apparition of a distinct “Romanianophile” group, and, on the other hand, the paradigm shift in the national policy of the Russian Empire in Bessarabia, the hardening of the Russification policy; 2) late 19th/early 20th century – 1917 (Phase B): the place of activist nobles is taken by middle class national activists, and “cultural noble nationalism” is replaced by “revolutionary” or “national-democratic” nationalism, much more influent and efficient; they request the autonomy of Bessarabia and attempt the

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creation of political parties; 3) 1917-1918 (Phase C): the fall of Tsarism created the conditions for a nationalist mass movement that led to the creation of national-cultural organizations and of the National Moldavian Party; the autonomy of Bessarabia was declared, later its independence and union with Romania on March 27, 1918.

Keywords: Bessarabia; national movement; Russification policy; National Moldavian Party.

(A *UI*, s.n., *Istorie*, LXIV (2018), p. 65-76).

Dinu PO TARENCU*

**Reports and notes about the crimes committed by Russian soldiers
on Romanian territory and the state of mind of the Romanian army
(October 1916 - early 1917)**

Abstract

Shortly after Romania joined the war as an ally of the Entente powers, the Austrian-German troops forced the Romanian armies to retreat. Eventually, towards the end of 1916, after heavy battles, the divisions of the Central Powers were stopped on the alignment formed by the Eastern Carpathians, Putna, Lower Siret and Lower Danube. Once the Romanian army began fighting, the allied Russian units entered the Romanian territory; they retreated along with the Romanian soldiers and together they constituted the Romanian Front. Hence, towards late 1916, on the Romanian front, the Russian commandment concentrated 35 infantry divisions and 13 cavalry divisions, accounting for around ¼ of the armed forces of the Russian Empire. Within the alliance between Romania and the Russian Empire – conjectural, determined by the adherence to the Entente – the Romanian-Russian relations were not based on loyalty. The dishonesty of the Russian party was apparent even in the behaviour of the Russian soldiers towards civilian authorities, soldiers and the Romanian population. The reports and notes identified – submitted to the Police and to the Romanian Security [Siguran a] – demonstrate with many details the unfriendly of the Russian soldiers, with repercussions on the morale of the Romanian army.

Keywords: World War I; Romania; Russian army; crimes; Ministry of Interior.

(A *UI*, s.n., *Istorie*, LXIV (2018), p. 77-112).

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Stefano SANTORO*

Romanian propaganda in Italy during WWI

Abstract

This paper focuses on the activity of propaganda carried out by some prominent Romanian personalities and associations abroad in the last phase of WWI in order to make foreign governments and public opinions aware of the Romanian national program, aiming to fulfil a greater Romanian nation, by the inclusion of all the Romanian-speaking populations. Italy was, together with France, the country where the Romanian propaganda was most intense and not by chance, considering that the idea of “Latin brotherhood” was the pivot of this action. A crucial moment of this activity was the Congress of oppressed nationalities, held in Rome in April 1918, and based on the new Wilsonian doctrines affirming the right of self-determination of the peoples. One of the most important results of this congress was the emergence among the most informed part of Italian public opinion and political circles of a new awareness of the need to involve all nationalities fighting against the Hapsburg Empire in the name of the Mazzinian principles of brotherhood and self-determination. This propaganda action led to the creation of the Romanian Legion of Italy, which fought beside the Italian army in the very last part of the war and left traces in the future rhetoric of “Latin brotherhood” of Romania and Italy, even when Mussolini’s foreign policy had torn the two countries apart.

Keywords: Romania; Italy; propaganda; World War I; S. Mândrescu.

(A *UI*, s.n., *Istorie*, LXIV (2018), p. 113-126).

Daniel CAIN**

Bulgarian representatives in occupied Romania (1916-1918)

Abstract

A few days before the fall of Bucharest, General Pet r Tantilov was appointed Bulgarian delegate, attached to the future Imperial Governorate of the occupied Romania. The instructions received from the Bulgarian Prime Minister are vague. “I am sending you to govern the occupied Romania, and on site you will decide on the things and on the relations with the allies”. Along with Tantilov, representatives of several ministries were sent to Bucharest: of Foreign Affairs, of Finances, of Agriculture and Transports. Officially, the defending of Bulgarian interests in the occupied Romania represents the mission of this representative. Practically, a great part of the activity of the Bulgarian royal Representatives comprises solving the conflicts with the allies, related to the distribution of the war bounty and to the economic exploitation of the occupied territory.

Keywords: Romania; occupation; Bulgaria; diplomacy; Pet r Tantilov.

(A *UI*, s.n., *Istorie*, LXIV (2018), p. 127-134).

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Anatol PETRENCU*

**Issues of foreign relations of Bessarabia discussed
during the meetings of the Country Council (1917-1918)**

Abstract

In 2016, the minutes of the sessions in plenum of the Country Council – the Bessarabian Parliament in 1917-1918 – were published. The documents provide a new perspective of those realities, even related to the foreign policy issues of the Moldavian Democratic Republic (Bessarabia). Such documents examine the status of the members of the Country Council in late 1917 – early 1918, the position of the main political actors concerning the foreign orientation of Bessarabia. The purpose of this text is to highlight and analyze the main foreign policy topics of the Moldavian Democratic Republic (Bessarabia), examined during the sessions in plenum of the Country Council.

Keywords: Bessarabia; Country Counsel; Bolshevik Terror; Romanian Army; Union.

(A UI, s.n., Istorie, LXIV (2018), p. 135-140).

Gheorghe COJOCARU**

**The Bolshevik Government and Romania
at the end of 1917 – the beginning of 1918**

Abstract

In this text, the author approaches the issue of the Soviet-Romanian relations until and immediately after the Bolshevik Government of V. I. Ulianov (Lenin) unilaterally terminated them in early 1918. The causes and consequences of this fact are examined, based on lesser-known archival documents; the intentions of the Bolshevik authorities concerning Romania and Bessarabia are studied, as well as the role of personalities such as Cr. Rakowsky in the attempt of destabilizing the Romanian state.

Keywords: Bolshevik Government; Romania; Bessarabia; C. Rakowsky.

(A UI, s.n., Istorie, LXIV (2018), p. 141-148).

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Adrian-Bogdan CEOBANU*

**The last days of freedom, the first days of imprisonment:
Romanian diplomats and consuls in Russia (1917-1918)**

Abstract

In the historiography dedicated to the Romanian-Russian relations in the 1916-1918 period, the apprehension of Romanians diplomats in the night of December 31, 1917/January 13, 1918, their release and then the cease of diplomatic relations between the two states have been common topics. However, the recent years have witnessed the emergence of different interpretations of these moments, mostly in the western literature dedicated to the First World War. On the other hand, the status of Romanian consuls in Ismail, Odessa and even Kishinev in late 1917 and mostly in the first months of 1918 – a timeframe marked by numerous political and social changes – was not a topic of choice for historians. Starting from these premises, my aim is to feature the difficult circumstances faced by Romanians diplomats in 1917, to analyze the various interpretations of the arrest of the diplomatic staff in Petrograd and the implications on the presence of Romanian consuls in Ismail, Odessa and Kishinev.

Keywords: Romanian legation; Russia; Constantin Diamandi; Cristian Racovski.

(A *UI*, s.n., *Istorie*, LXIV (2018), p. 149-170).

Eugen Tudor SCLIFOS**

Roger Sarret and the events of Bessarabia in the years 1917-1918

Abstract

In the year 1917, in the context of the events in Bessarabia, culminating in the proclamation of the Moldavian Democratic Republic on December 2, France – main representative of the Entente – opened a consulate in Kishinev. To run it, Roger Sarret was appointed, upon the suggestion of the French minister in Ia i, the count of Saint-Aulaire. The French consulate activated in the period December 1917- May 1918. Sarret's stay in Kishinev coincided with numerous important events in Bessarabia. We remind, in this respect, the entry of the Romanian army in Bessarabia in January 1918, the proclamation of the independent Moldavian Democratic Republic in January, the unification of Bessarabia with Romania in March. Sarret left the city of Ia i on December 20 and he went to Kishinev. Sarret enjoyed a warm welcome from the Kishinev authorities: Ion Incule , the mayor A. K. Schmidt, the representatives of the Zemstvo assemblies. The diplomatic reports sent to the count of Saint Aulaire feature the situation of Bessarabia during this significant period. The newspaper "Sfatul rii" praised the arrival to the Bessarabian capital of a French representative, which was considered an important event.

Keywords: Roger Sarret; Bessarabia; French consulate; Moldavian Democratic Republic.

(A *UI*, s.n., *Istorie*, LXIV (2018), p. 171-180).

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Emanuel PLOPEANU*

**Some considerations about United States press perceptions
at the beginning of 1918: Konrad Bercovici role
in analyzing the Romania situation**

Abstract

The present study tries to highlight some perceptions of Romania situation, in February-March 1918, in a very dramatic situation, in which the existence of the state was at stake. In the United States journals there are countless articles about Romania in the First World War but our interest is focused not on the news about the war but on the large written analyzes, in which Romania, its decisions and destiny, are the main topics. We are interested in a special case, in which the attitude toward Romania vary from an understanding surrounded with incertitude (in one article) to a more optimistic view, which could lead us to the idea of an article of propaganda (the second article). This two attitudes are expressed in the same journal, "The Sun", and are separated by a month (one in February, 1918, one in March same year) and, more interesting, belong to the same journalist, Konrad Bercovici, originated from Romania.

Keywords: Konrad Bercovici; propaganda; Romania; The First World War; "The Sun".

(A *UI*, s.n., *Istorie*, LXIV (2018), p. 181-189).

Emanuela COSTANTINI, Markenc LORENCI*****

**The troubles of war, the difficulties of peace:
Italy and Romania from 1917 to 1919**

Abstract

Italy and Romania followed a parallel path during the First World War. The two countries decided to be neutral when the conflict broke out, despite the pressures of the Triple Alliance, they both were linked to. Both countries eventually decided to participate to the war by the Triple Alliance side and both underwent severe hardships which, in 1917, led Italy to a disastrous defeat in Caporetto and Romania to being invaded and to make separate peace with its enemies in May 1918. Despite such a common way, Italy had not shown a strong interest towards Romania, considering it as playing in a regional context only indirectly connected with Italian objectives. Paradoxically, a few weeks before Romania got out of the war, new links between the two countries emerged. On the

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8th of April 1918 a congress of the oppressed nationalities of the Austro-Hungarian Empire was summoned in Rome, giving birth to voluntary groups fighting against the Central Empires, called Legions. The Romanian Legion was therefore created in Italy and its action, despite not being decisive as far as the military operations were concerned, had relevant symbolic implications. Such a background was present when, at the end of 1918, Romania regained the lands that had been occupied by enemies and eventually proclaimed the union between Transylvania and the Old Kingdom. The aim of this presentation is to make use of the sources of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs archive, the National Archives and the Military Archives, in order to understand the position and the interest Italy showed towards the union and how much the presence of the Legion affected the Italian position.

Keywords: World War I; Italy; Romania; congress of Rome; I. I. C. Br tianu.

(A UI, s.n., Istorie, LXIV (2018), p. 191-202).

Dorin-Demostene IANCU*

Unpublished documents about the last days of the German occupation in Bucharest

Abstract

The German occupation of Bucharest was a milestone in the history of the Romanian-German relations. The inhabitants of the Romanian capital did not forget the brutal behaviour of certain soldiers subordinated to Marshal Mackensen. As the war shifted and the Central Powers began losing their streak, in Bucharest the signs of becoming free from the occupation became more and more visible. Two reports of the Prefect of Capital Police – Alexandru Tzigara-Samurca – point out the moments before the return of King Ferdinand and of Queen Mary in Bucharest, which were filled with emotions for Romanians, and the moments the German troops retreated (even the damage they caused).

Keywords: First World War; Bucharest; German occupation; Alexandru Tzigara-Samurca .

(A UI, s.n., Istorie, LXIV (2018), p. 203-208).

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I. Premises of the Great Union from 1918

I.2. Church, school, press

Petronel ZAHARIUC*

Mount Athos and the Great Union

Abstract

This text brings to the attention of people interested – not many – several data on the evolution of the Romanian community on Mount Athos after the Balkan wars, during the First World War and in the interwar period. After the unification of Bessarabia with the motherland, the Romanian monastic community grew because it integrated numerous Bessarabian friars who had lived on the Holy Mountain. Besides the turmoil within the Romanian monastic community caused by the Great War, I will outline several information that will complete the dossier on Stephen the Great's flag, brought in the country and preserved until 1917 in the monastery of Zographou. I will also analyse the discussions about the Great Union, initiated by the Romanian state in order to have their own monastery on Mount Athos or in order to promote of the Romanian hermitages – Prodromu or Lacu – to the rank of monastery.

Keywords: Mount Athos; Zographou; Prodromu; First World War; Bessarabia.

(A UI, s.n., Istorie, LXIV (2018), p. 211-226).

Teodor CANDU**

The Bessarabian monastic congress and the national issue (1918)

Abstract

The Russian Revolution of February 1917 launched a series of movements for the democratization of the Russian society and of the territories populated by other ethnic groups. These processes comprised the creation of groups of interest – professional and political – pleading for the elaboration of mechanisms different from those of the autocratic period, to be used in the process of their future organization. This was the situation of the clergy (both secular priests and monks); in the years 1917-1918, they summoned several Congresses of Orthodox Church Clergy, either at the level of the former Empire or at local level. During such Congresses, they discussed matters referring to the reorganization of the

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Church in the new conditions created after the abolition of Russian autocracy. Such reunions also took place in the former Bessarabia Guberniya, during the years 1917-1918. After the unification of Bessarabia and Romania, on March 27 / April 9, 1918, the monastery of Hârbov hosted an Assembly (Congress) of the representatives of monastic establishments within the limits of the Kishinev and Hotin eparchy. This entity was founded de jure on August 21, 1813, while de facto on October 1, 1812, after certain territories were separated from the Moldavian historical eparchies. During this Congress, the representatives of the monastic clergy – within both male and female monasteries – discussed a series of issues related to the future organization of the Orthodox Church in the region after the unification with the Romanian kingdom. They even talked about the status of the monasteries within the new setting created. The document featured in this text – drafted up in Russian – represents an important source in order to understand the morale in the region and of the monastic clergy concerning the events in Russia and those in Bessarabia as part of the historical motherland.

Keywords: Bessarabia; Congress of Orthodox Clergy; The Orthodox Church; Dobrua monastery.

(A UI, s.n., Istorie, LXIV (2018), p. 227-247).

Ionel MOLDOVAN*

The Contribution of the Orthodox Clergy to the Bessarabian Union with Romania

Abstract

This article covers the gradual involvement of Orthodox priests in the movement of national emancipation in Bessarabia between February 1917 and February 1920. De jure, the unification of Bessarabia and Romania was achieved through the document of March 27, 1918 and through its acknowledgement in the conditions set during the Paris Peace Conference at the end of the First World War. De facto, however, the union had to be promoted and consolidated in the territory. This mission was entrusted to the intellectuals and to the Romanian state authorities. My endeavour will take into account the activity of a certain part of the intellectuality, namely the clergy. They belong to two categories: Bessarabia natives involved in the Bessarabian national emancipation movement in the context of the year 1917 and persons on a temporary posting, as well as those seeking refuge in the province. The priests with temporary assignments were military priests with precise instructions of promoting the Romanian national values among the population. The refugees came, most of them, from Transylvania, from where they had retreated along with the Romanian armies in the fall of 1916. Their passage in the province occurred especially in the context of the fights on the Romanian front in the summer of the year 1917. The activity they carried out – supported by the authorities of the Romanian state – represented a significant part of the effective unification of Bessarabia and Romania. It may be stated

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that it actually took place once the ecclesiastical unification occurred, and once Gurie Grosu was acknowledged as head of the Church in the province. He was one of the main voices promoting Romanian culture in Bessarabia after 1905.

Keywords: National movement; The Orthodox Church in Bessarabia; clergy; union; Gurie Grosu; Dionisie Erhan.

(A UI, s.n., Istorie, LXIV (2018), p. 249-262).

Maria DANILOV*

Two Romanian Language Grammar Books for the Bessarabian school in 1918

Abstract

*The Bessarabian school – for more than one century – was totally under the influence of the Russian imperial school. The first demand of the Moldovans – after the events that occurred in the Russian Empire in early 1917 – was the nationalization of learning in all primary schools. However, for the creation of a national school, new manuals were necessary. The didactic literature in 19th-century Bessarabia was largely a religious literature destined mainly to parochial schools. Actually, most of the well-known Bessarabian bucoavne (primers) were bilingual editions, with a parallel text (on two columns) in Russian/Slavonic and Romanian. The Romanian text was a translated (adapted) version from Russian, which also indicates directly the source of the original: the Russian bucoavne drafted up in the first half of the 19th century were approved by synod censorship. In the fall of 1917, the School section attached to the gubernial Zemstva managed to publish the first Romanian manuals for Bessarabian schools: *The Primer of Father Gurie*, *The Reading Book of tefan Ciobanu* and *The Godly Law Book of Father Vlad*. With help from the Bessarabian school, in 1918, two Romanian grammar books edited in Bucharest and Ia i were published: the first one penned by the famous *Petre V. Hane*, *Moldovian Grammar (Ia i 1918)*, and the second drafted up by the Bessarabian *Axente Frunz*, *Romanian Grammar (Bucharest, 1918)* – this was his contribution to the great changes occurring in the life of Bessarabians.*

Keywords: Romanian language; Bessarabian school; Grammar books; Petre V. Hane ; Axente Frunz .

(A UI, s.n., Istorie, LXIV (2018), p. 263-278).

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Daniel NI -DANIELESCU*

**Pimen Georgescu (1853-1934),
the Metropolitan of War and of the Great Union**

Abstract

The service of Pimen Georgescu – the Archbishop of Ia i and the Metropolitan of Moldavia and Suceava during the reuniting war – remains exemplary for the qualities to be proven by the bishop of Christ’s Church under difficult circumstances for the community entrusted to him. Its assessment is outlined synthetically and with great force of suggestion in the inscription on the cross standing above his grave in the cemetery of Provi a de Sus (Prahova), his place of birth: “Here lies Pimen, the Metropolitan of Moldavia and Suceava, the Metropolitan of War and of the Romanian Nation’s Reunification 1853-1934”.

Keywords: Pimen Georgescu; World War I; Orthodox Church; M r e ti.

(A UI, s.n., Istorie, LXIV (2018), p. 279-292).

Ion NEGREI**

**The foundation and the activity of the general Association of the Moldavian /
Romanian students from Bessarabia (1917-1918)**

Abstract

After the abolition of autocracy in the Russian Empire, the Moldovan students from the higher education institutions registered a spectacular evolution on the political and the national fields. Abandoning their status of Russian revolutionaries, they founded the General Association of Moldovan Students (May 1917), initially manifesting themselves as Moldovan revolutionaries; then they accomplished their revolutionary career as artisans of the Romanian national unity (March 1918).

The Association of Moldovan / Romanian Students from Bessarabia has been involved in activities aimed to cultivate the national consciousness and identity, the national unity. Thus the young students expressed their desire to live freely in the national territory, offering the same perspective to their generations. The spectacular trajectory of the student movement in Bessarabia was favored by a number of internal and external factors. The international conjuncture – World War I, the relatively democratic framework in place after the Russian revolution of February 1917, the dismemberment of the Russian Empire and the establishment of a restrictive and anarchist regime after the

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Bolsheviks took power – all favored the social activism of the Romanian students from Bessarabia.

During the complicated and complex political situation of the years 1917–1918, the young students from Prut and Dniester, members of the General Association of Moldovan / Romanian Students from Bessarabia, manifested themselves as a strong social force, which contributed to the change of the destiny of the Bessarabian population, opting for a natural national development and European integration.

Keywords: Bessarabia; congress; General Association of Moldovan / Romanian students; student solidarity; political enlightenment; national education; national unity.

(A UI, s.n., Istorie, LXIV (2018), p. 293-311).

Radu TUDORANCEA*

**Exile in Moldova (1916-1918) from the perspective of new archival sources.
Archives of the National Red Cross Society of Romania and the National
Archives of France (Paris-Pierrefitte sur Seine)**

Abstract

As suggested by the title, this text features new archival sources, which I consider relevant for the research efforts dedicated to the First World War. More precisely, I refer to archival documents and funds on the Romanian involvement in the war and mostly to the period of retreat to Moldavia (1916-1918), following the disastrous evolutions on the front. The sources taken into account belong to the Archive of the National Red Cross Society in Romania and to the National Archives of France (Paris-Pierrefitte sur Seine), which may provide new and useful information for any research endeavour focusing on the first global conflagration.

Keywords: First World War Romania; Romanian Refuge; Archival Sources; Romanian Red Cross Society; French National Archives.

(A UI, s.n., Istorie, LXIV (2018), p. 313-325).

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Antonio D’ALESSANDRI*

**The Romanian Question in Italy after the
Treaty of Bucharest (1918). Press and Propaganda**

Abstract

In the spring of 1918, the Romanian Question became more popular than before in the Italian public opinion. The critic conditions of the Country, dominated by Germany and her allies, associated to the uncertain situation on the Western front, gave Romania a special importance to Italian observers. In summer 1916 the Italian press had welcomed the Romanian entry to the war. It was seen as a new ally that had finally decided to join the right side of the fight.

In this paper, the imagine of Romania is presented in the Italian society during the spring of the year 1918, when a huge propaganda campaign was set up by Italian authorities to give strength to the military forces on the war front. The famous Congress of nationalities oppressed by Austria-Hungary (held in Rome in April) is just an example. Still there are other and less known cases of demonstrations in favour of Romania along those months, above all in May after the signature of the Treaty of Bucharest. Departing from some considerations about Italian politics towards South-Eastern Europe, the paper examines how Italian press presented the Romanian cause and which have been the propaganda initiatives to push the Country to the rescue, since the treaty of Bucharest was seen as „shameless and disgraceful peace”. The case of the demonstrations in Rome by the end of May is particularly interesting because they were planned by Women Associations in collaboration with the Municipal Administration and supported by Italian government as some archives materials now reveal.

Keywords: the Romanian Question; treaty of Bucharest; Central Powers; Simion Mândrescu.

(A UI, s.n., Istorie, LXIV (2018), p. 327-331).

Mircea-Cristian GHENGHEA**

**Ion Mihalache in Bessarabia.
Little Known Pages from the Year 1918**

Abstract

At the beginning of 1918 Ion Mihalache was among the members of a special group of 94 schoolteachers and professors sent to Bessarabia by the Government in Ia i in order to

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mitigate the anti-Romanian attitudes and to smooth the way to a possible closeness to Romania. Various details are known within the Romanian historiography regarding the period when Mihalache was on the left side of river Prut and they were presented in some papers appeared after 1990. Through our text we take a historiographical insight of the activity carried out in Bessarabia based also on recently identified documentary information which can extend as well as enrich the already existing perspective within the literature dedicated to the Union of the Moldavian Democratic Republic with the Romanian Kingdom.

Keywords: Ion Mihalache; Bessarabia; teachers; professors; Romania; Country Council; Romanian national identity; bolshevism.

(A UI, s.n., Istorie, LXIV (2018), p. 333-344).

II. Achievement and destiny of the Great Union from 1918

II.1 The achievement and international recognition of the Great Union

Cristina GUDIN*

Difficulties and favorable elements in the achievement of the Union of Bessarabia with Romania

Abstract

The text undertakes to point out aspects related to the process of the unification of Bessarabia and Romania. By appraising several writings belonging to personalities directly involved in the events (Ion Incule , Pantelimon Halippa, Dimitrie Bogos, Paul Gore, Onisifor Ghibu) or to persons who followed their evolution closely (Alexandru Boldur) to make them known to others, too (Vasile Harea), I had a great occasion of getting an insight into the atmosphere of the time. I also had the chance of pointing out the nuances identified in a direct manner by the contemporaries regarding the pressing issues of the moment.

As visible in the title, the text will outline the political and geographical framework of Russia; the lack with the purpose of forcing the evacuating Bessarabia from the detachments disorganized of Russian soldiers; the involvement of Romanians from Ardeal in stimulating the national Bessarabian movement; the considerable efforts of the Bessarabian leaders of informing the population and of imposing a new institutional and political reality, etc). Such an approach is meant to help draw some conclusions, namely: the process of the unification of Bessarabia and Romania was sinuous, claimed the overcoming of obstacles, the efficient solving of urgent matters, the spending of impressive energies to eliminate hesitations, oppositions.

Keywords: Bessarabia; union; Romania; Ion Incule .

(A UI, s.n., Istorie, LXIV (2018), p. 347-355).

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Ioana Mihaela BONDA^{*}, Oana Mihaela TĂMAȘ^{}**

**Year 1918 in the “Notes of a wanderer in his country” –
vicar Jacob Popa**

Abstract

Over time, the Great Union of 1918 has stirred the interest of numerous specialists. Approached from diverse perspectives, the topic is always of actuality, being completed with new sources. In the comprehensive process of exhaustive reconstruction of the event, which marked the constitution of the Greater Romania, the memoirs and journals of the participants constitute an important historiographic source. Starting from this premise, this paper undertakes to emphasize on the way the 1918 Union was perceived, on the background of a very high horizon of expectations, by the vicar forane of F g ra , Iacob Popa (1872-1937). His records are all the more interesting as – due to his favourable attitude towards the Romanian army, considered treason by the Hungarian authorities – the Greek Catholic clergy were forced to seek refuge in Romania, on October 6, 1916. Aware that he was part of a major historical translation, he filled in accurately new information in his journal, on a daily basis. Throughout his journey on the Romanian and the Russian territory (in May 1917, he went to Russia, as part of the commission for recruiting Transylvanian volunteers), Iacob Popa always paid attention to the events occurring on fronts and especially to the situation in Transylvania. Present in Ia i during the Great Union on December 1, 1918, he marked the episode in his accounts. Though subjective given the personal experience of the author, the journal of the Greek Catholic vicar opens a new window through which we may look at the past from a unique perspective, meant to complete the fresco of the great event in the history of the Romanian nation.

Keywords: Iacob Popa; vicar of F g ra ; memories; Great Union; Greek-Catholic Church.

(A UI, s.n., Istorie, LXIV (2018), p. 357-369).

Ana-Maria STAN^{*}**

**Professors from the University of Cluj and Bessarabia after 1918.
A few considerations**

Abstract

This text undertakes to investigate the way in which the members of the academia in Transylvania – namely the university professors and students with the Romanian University in Cluj, founded after 1919 – were interested in Bessarabia and in the issues of this

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province, become in its turn part of the Greater Romania after the First World War. I will try to achieve this on two levels – on one hand, to point out the topics of interest of Cluj-based university members regarding Bessarabia (if there were research projects or other scientific or cultural bilateral contacts), and on the other hand, to analyze the impressions and speeches of Cluj-based intellectuals, related to Bessarabia, about this region. In my endeavour, I will use several types of sources – press, archive documents, memoirs. The purpose was to outline – even only partially – the image of Bessarabia in the mindset of the interwar Transylvanian elite.

Keywords: Bessarabia; Transylvania; University of Cluj; First World War; Onisifor Ghibu.

(A UI, s.n., Istorie, LXIV (2018), p. 371-383).

Silvia CORL TEANU-GRANCIUC*

**Alexandru Averescu and the ratifying by Italy of the Treaty on Bessarabia
signed in Paris on the 28 October 1920**

Abstract

The paper analyzes the question of Bessarabia in the framework of the Romanian-Italian relations during the interwar period. Special attention is given to the political and diplomatic events related to the question of the delayed ratification by the Italian Parliament of the „Treaty on the recognition of the union of Bessarabia with Romania”, signed in Paris on the 28 October 1920. In the paper the causes of the delay are investigated as well as the Italian attitude towards Romania in the Bessarabian question. General Alexandru Averescu, a native of southern Bessarabia, headed by the Romanian government, played an important role in the actions aimed at convincing Italy's leadership to ratify the Bessarabian Treaty.

Keywords: Romania; Bessarabia; Italy; Treaty on Bessarabia; Alexandru Averescu; foreign policy; interwar period.

(A UI, s.n., Istorie, LXIV (2018), p. 385-399).

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Mihai-Alexandru PI IGOI*

**A Missed Opportunity. Great Britain
and the Ratification of the Paris Treaty Regarding Bessarabia**

Abstract

On April 10, 1922, Genoa began hosting an international conference to discuss the issue of the debts after the First World War, the new financial organization of the world, to provide a plan for the economic reconstruction of Central and Eastern Europe. At the same time, by inviting the representatives of the Bolshevik regime in Moscow, the purpose was to regulate the financial issues with it (the debts made by the Tsarist government during the war and the damages for the goods confiscated by the new power). A solution to this problem would have also allowed the international diplomatic recognition of Soviet Russia. Starting from the negotiations carried out in Warsaw, in the fall of 1921, between the Romanian diplomatic representative to Poland, Constantin Filaliti, and the Soviet plenipotentiary minister Lev Karahan, the British diplomacy identified the issues that the Romanian-Soviet dispute regarding Bessarabia could raise during the future conference in Genoa.

The Great Powers had acknowledged the unification of this historical province with the Romanian kingdom during the Peace Conference in Versailles, through the Treaty concluded on October 28, 1920 and signed by Great Britain, France, Italy and Japan. The United States had refused to sign the Treaty. In early 1922, the Treaty had not been ratified by any of the parties and thus it could not enter into force. In this context, the Foreign Office took a set of measures; their purpose was not to block the emergence of the Romanian-Russian dispute on the agenda of the conference, but to limit its effects within the general setting of the discussions. The most important decision was the ratification of the Treaty regarding Bessarabia.

Keywords: treaty of Paris; Genoa conference; World War I; Bessarabia; Great Britain; Russia.

(A UI, s.n., *Istorie*, LXIV (2018), p. 401-413).

Bogdan-Alexandru SCHIPOR**

**Britain and the Eastern European allies of France
at the end of the Great War**

Abstract

Once the peace was concluded, at the end of the “Great War”, Great Britain resumed its traditional policy, of not intervening in Eastern Europe. This did not entail a complete abandonment of the European policy, but the British tried to avoid providing guarantees or

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getting involved in alliances on the old continent. However, Europe remained even after the end of the Second World War a space dominated by alliances. Whereas Great Britain was not a founding member, France chose this position, mainly in Eastern Europe, thus trying to create a new continental balance, to eliminate the German threat and to keep the Bolshevik danger away. Unlike France, Great Britain' traditional policy involved avoiding any direct involvement in Eastern Europe, but a similar attitude characterized London's position regarding Europe as a whole. Nonetheless, the political leaders in Romania, Czechoslovakia, Poland and more always sought British support for their causes. The lack of British enthusiasm for the countries in Eastern Europe was based on the pragmatic conclusion drawn by London: namely, regardless of their instability, the three former empires in Central and Eastern Europe –Austrian-Hungarian, Russian and Ottoman – were preferable to the new States, seen as aggressive and unstable in London.

Due to this attitude, many of the political leaders in Eastern Europe interpreted the British policy as opposing their interests, and the dominant concern of London towards the issues of the Empire or the domestic issues almost as a sign of hostility. A stable and peaceful Europe remained, though, an essential objective of British policy, as well as a limited collaboration with France, but not without conditions. Moreover, the most important of the conditions was for Paris to waive or drastically limit the interest east from the Rhine. Great Britain thus wished to make sure that it would not be dragged in any conflict for defending a Eastern-European country or for getting involved in divergences highly possible in Upper Silesia, Danzig, Poland, Romania or any other East-European state with which France had concluded or intended to conclude treaties.

Keywords: Great Britain; France; Eastern Europe; diplomacy.

(A UI, s.n., Istorie, LXIV (2018), p. 415-426).

II. Achievement and destiny of the Great Union from 1918

II.2. Aftermath of war

Oliver Jens SCHMITT*

Great Romania, post-imperial composite state

Abstract

The Greater Romania as a historical phenomenon may be understood only using a renewed view of the historical realities, namely using the model of a composite postimperial state. This model refers to continuity structures in the administration, society, economy, culture and mentality. The history of the Romanian state after 1918 consists in large scale attempts to eliminate the composite postimperial character of state and society. This homogenization and levelling was conducted by Romania in a historical European environment where the national

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states actively fought against the pluralist ethnical, cultural and social heritage of the empire. Romania is not exception when it comes to using such means: centralization, growing discrimination and repression, oah, deportation, even selling minorities; the exception is that this process, began after 1918, did not lead to the collapse of the state and to civil war. Whereas, in the retrospective of the 100 years, the national state represented a progress from empires, such question stirs emotions. Here, historians should not be making calculations; on the contrary, by studying the aforementioned issues, they may demonstrate, according to the words of the great German historian of the 19th century, Thomas Nipperdey, history is never black or white but always grey, with numerous fine nuances.

Keywords: Great Romania; World War I; union; postimperial state.

(A UI, s.n., Istorie, LXIV (2018), p. 429-435).

Nicolae ENCIU*

The spiritual rebirth of interwar Bessarabia

Abstract

Based on a variety of documentary and statistical sources, the present study looks at progress of interwar Bessarabian education and literacy, science and literature, theatrical and religious life, press and broadcasting. As can be seen from the analysis carried out, the efforts of the administrative authorities in the interwar period have generally pursued a broader and more effective integration and synchronization of the national spiritual life with the European and universal one, and the progresses attested in those years were definitely superior to those until 1918.

Keywords: education; cultural life; theater; literacy; integration; synchronization.

(A UI, s.n., Istorie, LXIV (2018), p. 437-467).

Carol IANCU**

The issue of the emancipation of the Romanian Jews in the context of the Great Union achievement

Abstract

After two years of “armed neutrality”, Romania joined the countries of the Entente against Austria-Hungary from August 27, 1916. Due to the shifting course of the war – after successes in Transylvania against the Hungarians, defeats against the German army and the occupation of the capital and of two thirds of the country –, Romania had to conclude a

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truce with the Central Powers (December 9, 1917 and a separate peace, through the Treaty of Bucharest (May 7, 1918) before mobilizing the army (November 10, 1918) for one last victorious campaign. At the end of the war, the country doubled its surface and population: Bessarabia, Bukovina and Transylvania returned to their “motherland”, thus creating the reunited Romania or the Greater Romania. These turning points also affected the status of Romanian Jews, an estimated 239,967 souls according to the census of 1912, accounting for 3.3% of the population, among whom 23,000 were on the front at the beginning of the hostilities. The Official Gazette, through the nominal lists of the Jewish soldiers – dead (882), wounded (740), prisoners (449), disappeared (3.043) and decorated (825) – summarizes the importance of their participation in the battles for their country. Gone to war as “foreigners not subjected to a foreign protection”, they had all the reasons to hope for an impartial solution at the end of the battles. Nevertheless, the long awaited citizenship still had many obstacles to overcome: while in the country, three law-decrees were promulgated in 1918-1919 in order to regulate their situation, the problem was brought up for the first time internationally within the Treaty of Bucharest. However, only during the Paris Peace Conference, emancipation was consecrated definitively. The current text undertakes to examine the different phases of the fight for emancipation, taken in the country and abroad, from the moment Romania joined the war until the Paris Peace Conference (January 1919).

Keywords: Jews; Romania; emancipation; Berlin treaty; Paris peace conference.

(A *UI*, s.n., *Istorie*, LXIV (2018), p. 469-489).

Ionu NISTOR*

In search of lost money. The consequences of the Great War on Ia i

Abstract

By paraphrasing the famous Proust novel launched around the war time, which consecrated the idea of time fluidity and flexibility, the title introduces – in a both rigid and determinable universe, through the economic and financial tangents, but also incandescent and dynamic, through the political and social implications produced by the accounting document – the financial estimate and the budget. Focusing on the phenomenon of population and central authorities retreat to Ia i, in 1916, on the pain caused by this refuge, on epidemics, on the lack of spaces, the Romanian historiography gave less attention to the reversed process and to the immediate consequences of the “guests” leaving the city, according to Nicolae Iorga. The issues of destructions, of consequences, of the negative assessment, effects of the two years of refuge were interesting for both specialists and the public, but most of the times the discourse has been too enflamed, in one way or another. The accounting of money, financial or moral debts made spirits agitated, mostly given that

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the analysis started from the proportion of paying the “debt” of Bucharest towards Ia i, thus at the end of the equation. In this context, we propose to avoid the patterns of praising discourse or of finding scapegoats or justifications. Actually, we want to start the accounting assessment of the money lost by Ia i at the first level of evidence: identifying, estimating and assessing the damage, caused by local authorities. How was this assessment made, who made it, what were the criteria, how did they adjust to the national standards after 1918, what were the stages, were there exaggerations, were estimates turned into certain financial data, did the city hall of Ia i try to use this moment in order to solve older urban development issues? And, not least, was such money really lost, given that the material effort made by the city of Ia i served the same national interest that animated soldiers in the great battles of 1917 or the government during its negotiations? The “search of money” is difficult. It is at the same time an accounting endeavour and an incursion in the process of self-evaluation, of local definition, of the periphery relating to the centre.

Keywords: Ia i; Great Union; war damages; accounting; periphery vs center.

(A UI, s.n., Istorie, LXIV (2018), p. 491-515).

C t lin BOTO INEANU*

Society “Protection of War Orphans” and the role of Princess Olga Sturdza

Abstract

This text features the efforts made by Olga Sturdza and the history of a project, the Society “Protection of War Orphans” (SOOR). At the same time, I understood I was not to isolate the case of orphan children from the extremely complicated context of the war, of the situation in interwar Romania. I considered it necessary to insert in the text, from the perspective of the paediatricians, a brief overview of the way children were perceived in the Old Kingdom. Subsequently, I featured – from the perspective of the administrative evolution – the path of the Society “Protection of War Orphans” from a local initiative to a nationwide phenomenon, focusing on the orphans within all provinces of the Greater Romania, regardless of their nationality or confession.

Keywords: World War I; Great Romania; Olga Sturdza; war orphans.

(A UI, s.n., Istorie, LXIV (2018), p. 517-538).

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The unification of the military structures of Romania (1918-1924)

Abstract

One of the most difficult problems of the first years after World War I was the unification of the military structures and the creation of a defensive system that was suitable to the new political and territorial realities resulted from the declarations of unification from Chişinău, Cernăuţi and Alba Iulia. The process was particularly complex and led to harsh debates among the members of the Romanian political class and of the officer corps. The solutions did not come to light easily and they were forged according to the fighting experience of the Romanian army and to Romania's doctrinal and strategic choices at the international level. The military unification ended in 1923-1924, the most important moments being the adoption of the Constitution (1923) and the Law on the Organization of the Army (1924).

Keywords: union; army; Romania; First World War; interwar period.

(A UI, s.n., Istorie, LXIV (2018), p. 539-560).

Stelu a CHEFANI-PĂTRĂSCU**

Agrarian reform promises and the reality within the Teleorman County at the end of the First World War

Abstract

This article highlights the important agrarian reform of 1921, the true motivation of Romanian soldiers for going to war. It so happened that it was debated during the war years; it was applied from December 15, 1918, and it coincided with the years of troubles and then with the settling within a new Romanian national unitary state. For legislators, a special category was created when granting land; such category comprised the soldiers and officers who had been to war. Based on archive documents, the article features cases when soldiers returned from the front to find tables already drafted up, without them in the tables; some others remained without any land until their military situation was clarified. There were also war widows who did not get any land. Furthermore, General Gheorghe Mărdărescu of Iaşi received some land, but in the town of Alexandria. The First World War led to the Greater Romania, and the agrarian reform changed the Romanian society.

Keywords: World War I; agrarian reform; Teleorman; Gheorghe D. Mărdărescu.

(A UI, s.n., Istorie, LXIV (2018), p. 561-570).

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Marius CHELCU*

**A memorial of the people of Ia i at the end of the Great War.
Concerns and hopes of a new beginning**

Abstract

The basis of the research is the content of a Memo of the people of Ia i drafted up in the month of December 1918. The document is dated January 6, 1919, and it was created in order to be presented before King Ferdinand in Ia i, on January 24, during his highly anticipated participation to the 60-year celebration of the Unification of Principalities. The preamble of the document mentioned the sacrifices made by Ia i and by Moldavia, both the recent ones – during the war – and those accumulated throughout the six decades from the constitution of the Romanian state. In the following lines, the wishes of people from Ia i and of Moldavians in general were outlined. The text of the memo was accompanied by a list featuring several thousand signatures (as well as the full name of petitioners, their occupation and their address). Upon analyzing the list, I have concluded that the persons who adhered to the ideas expressed in the document addressed to the king were renowned initiators and supporters such as Metropolitan Pimen Georgescu, Nicolae Iorga or Petru Poni; local personalities such as N. A. Bogdan or Gh. Ghib nescu; priests, owners, masters, clerks, merchants, workers, university students, teachers, pensioners, etc, including politicians of almost all colours. The purpose of my research – besides the analysis of memo contents, even of the list of signatories – is to reconstruct the context of the document. Furthermore, I will also see how many of the hopes of the new beginning – expressed by the people of Ia i through that gesture of great engagement – actually became reality in the two decades until the subsequent world conflagration.

Keywords: Ia i; memorial; Nicolae Iorga; Pimen Georgescu.

(A UI, s.n., Istorie, LXIV (2018), p. 571-589).

Bogdan POPA**

**Book trade in Romania after the Great Union:
Understanding a literary contest from 1925**

Abstract

The aim of the present contribution is to analyse an unofficial literary contest, organised in 1925 by the Bucharest based cultural magazine “Ideea European ” [European Idea]. Without completely ignoring the literary quality of the writings involved, I aim to take a quick look into the changes brought upon by the Great War and the Great Union in the

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structure of the book trade industry and book market of 1920s Romania. In order to do so, I shall briefly present both the contest as well as the publishing houses asked to compete for the favours of an elusive public. The main thesis is that the 1916-1919 events brought deep, mostly positive, changes in the book trade.

Keywords: Great Union of Romania; book trade; „Idea European ”; Ion Minulescu; Liviu Rebreanu.

(A UI, s.n., Istorie, LXIV (2018), p. 591-598).

II. Achievement and destiny of the Great Union from 1918

II.3. Celebrations, historiography, press, memory

Hans-Christian MANER*

Autobiographies of the nation: causes and consequences of the First World War in the Romanian and German history manuals

Abstract

History handbooks reconstruct the dominant narrative as one of the central manifestations of historical culture. They provide more than a perspective of the historical concepts, ideas and objectives of the educational policy of those authors. History handbooks disseminate the patterns of past perception and interpretation, which are essential for a society and for the field of the policy in question. In their turn, handbooks contribute to the creation, consolidation or influence of certain images on history. In this text, my purpose was to analyze the perception of the year 1918 and the emergence of the new state titled “the Greater Romania” in various Romanian history handbooks selected from the interwar period, the communist period and the period after 1989. What meaning is ascribed to 1918 in those notebooks? I will focus on the various interpretations, highlights, changes or omissions. The analysis may help outlining the various perceptions of history in the handbooks that influenced entire generations.

Keywords: History handbooks; First World War; Romania; Germany.

(A UI, s.n., Istorie, LXIV (2018), p. 601-610).

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Adrian VIȚALARU*

**Between political issues and memory recovery.
Celebration of Bessarabian union during the first interwar decade**

Abstract

After the First World War, the date of March 27 – standing for the unification of Bessarabia and Romania – was gradually integrated in the holidays with a national connotation. Such celebrations demonstrate the importance of the past – the recent past, in this case – in interwar Romania. This was actually an adjustment of the “official memory” – indicated/constructed by state authorities – to the new geopolitical realities of Romania. Hence, in this text, my aim is to analyse how Romanian authorities became involved in the celebrations for the unification of Bessarabia and Romania in the first interwar decade. I focus on the manifestations organized on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Union. Another objective of this paper is to appraise from a sequential perspective – using the Romanian press of the time – the way the main political parties in Romania became involved in the celebrations for the unification of Bessarabia and Romania, in an attempt to legitimize their actions and to gain political capital.

Keywords: union; Bessarabia; Romania; political disputes; national identity.

(A UI, s.n., Istorie, LXIV (2018), p. 611-624).

Florin MÜLLER**

**Ideological-historiographical distortions of Romania’s participation
in the First World War in Romania of the 50s**

Abstract

The 50s represented par excellence the timeframe of the Stalinist “cultural revolution” in Romania. From a historiographic perspective, it led to a massive elimination of the old structures of the historians’ guild, to the dramatic reconfiguration in terms of both topic and contents of the Romanian historical science. In this program, coordinated by Mihail Roller – a historian of the party and a genuine dictator of historical science in that period (1948-1958– the moment of December 1st, 1918 suffered even more than other identity instances of national history deep distortions under the matrix of “proletarian internationalism”. Between 1948 until the late 60s, December 1st, 1918 suffered metamorphoses that included successive layers (with ebbs and flows) of a nihilist-Stalinist nature, from absolute silence to the full incrimination of generating (and decision-making)

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political factors of this event. The Stalinist-rollerist historians have used, in turns, a specific linguistic and semantic lexicon: “bourgeoisie”, “imperialist war”, “adventurism”, “exploitation”, “national chauvinism”. However, the historiographic universe within the “obsessive decade” was not linear and it cannot be explained in exclusively Manichean terms as a fight between “good and truth”, on one hand (the “national-liberal”, “patriotic”, “anti-Cominternist” line) and “bad and false” (Stalinist rollerism), on the other hand.

Keywords: historiography; communism; First World War; Mihail Roller.

(A UI, s.n., Istorie, LXIV (2018), p. 625-641).

Francesco GUIDA*

The Great Union and the Romanian historiography during the (late) Communist regime

Abstract

When making reference to the Romanian historiography in the communist period, especially in its "mature" age – that is in the years dominated by the personality of Nicolae Ceau escu – the phrase "national-communism" is frequently employed. This use underlines that, beginning from the first part of the Sixties, the historiography was related with the new dominant political address in the communist regime. Nevertheless the historiography was able, or rather it was induced to recover not only the principal themes of the national history, but also some interpretations that succeeded in gathering the feeling of the public opinion and of the population, sometimes also in its less sober forms. This is a very simple thesis largely shared both by the Romanian historiography after 1989, and, with greater belief, by the international historiography. In this paper, I will try to test the soundness and above all the relevance of that thesis with respect to a chiefly outstanding exemplum, since it led to the realization of the greatest Romanian national program that is the building of the “România Mare” (Great Romania). For this aim I will review some texts of the years Sixties-Eighties, with a particular consideration for those texts that were translated for the non-Romanian public, included the Italian readers. Such scientific production (in line with and appreciated by the communist regime) was fed by researchers who had professional skill, but were “organic” to the ceau ism. Naturally there are numerous references to political statements; more often those of Nicolae Ceau escu, than those referring to the classics of Marxism.

Keywords: Romanian historiography; communist regime; Nicolae Ceau escu; tefan Pascu.

(A UI, s.n., Istorie, LXIV (2018), p. 643-649).

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Jean-Noël GRANDHOMME*

**Capitaine Conan. Un roman et un film français sur les lendemains
de la Grande Guerre en Roumanie**

Résumé

Dans Capitaine Conan (1934), prix Goncourt, l'écrivain Roger Verceel, lui-même ancien combattant du front d'Orient, raconte l'histoire d'un officier des corps francs de l'armée Franchet d'Espèrey, passé ensuite à l'armée du Danube du général Berthelot. Dans cette guerre non-conventionnelle, plus dure encore que celle menée par les "poilus" classiques, il se révèle un extraordinaire meneur d'hommes, mais peu respectueux de la discipline et des règlements. Dans Bucarest libéré, ses soldats, incapables de supporter la paix car fils de la guerre, commettent de nombreux délits et Conan s'efforce de leur éviter d'être condamnés. En 1996 le livre est adapté au cinéma par Bertrand Tavernier, qui a déjà traité de la grande Guerre quelques années plus tôt dans La Vie et rien d'autre. Le film rencontre le succès auprès du public grâce à la performance des acteurs et au sujet. La Roumanie, et plus particulièrement sa capitale, servent en effet de décor aux aventures de Conan. Les Français, en 1934 comme en 1996, redécouvrent ce front oublié et un pays francophile et francophone. Quelques années à peine après la révolution de 1989 Capitaine Conan bénéficie de l'intérêt du public pour l'Europe centrale et orientale et pour la Roumanie en particulier. On s'attachera à voir comment la Roumanie et les Roumains sont traités dans ces deux œuvres de fiction.

Mots-clés: Roger Verceel; Captain Conan; World War I; Romania; Berthelot.

(A UI, s.n., Istorie, LXIV (2018), p. 651-674).

Elena VARTA**

**The identity theme and that of the Union of Bessarabia with Romania
in the programmes of the Radio Free Europe (the 80s of the 20th century).
Case study: Nicolae Lupan**

Abstract

In the eve of the Soviet Union collapse, Radio Free Europe played an important role in the process of retrieving the historical conscience of Bessarabian Romanians and of their national conscience. In the shows of this radio station, they regularly approached several topics concerning the history of Romanians, under Soviet occupation. Throughout the 8th decade of the twentieth century, the protagonists of such shows dedicated to estranged

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Romanians at this radio station were Grigore Singurel (Efim Crimerman), (from 1981), Nicolae Lupan (from 1983) and Vlad Socor (from 1989). Out of the three protagonists of such shows, Nicolae Lupan was the most prolific and persistent in evoking important pages within the history of Romanians estranged from the Soviet occupation regime. In his shows, he showed a special predilection for the historical importance of the first Bessarabian parliament – the Country and Reunification Council, in 1918, of this Romanian province with the motherland. A future sociological investigation carried out in the Republic of Moldova concerning the impact of the Free Europe radio shows on the Romanian citizens in the eighties would enable an appraisal of the effects on the collective mindset through the message that was meant to revive the historical and national conscience of Bessarabian Romanians.

Keywords: Nicolae Lupan; identity; reunion; Bessarabia; Romania; Free Europe Radio.

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