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**In the Service of His Majesty:
The British Consular Service in Black Sea Ports.
Administration and Personnel (1825-1842)**

Eusebiu-Costel Diaconu*

Abstract: *“Whilst French research has recognized the importance of the consuls as the 'eyes and ears' of their Foreign Office, little, if any, study has been made of the role of the British consuls.” This perspective from the introduction of Lucia Gunning’s doctoral thesis¹ explicitly summaries our concerns about the history of British consular service in Black Sea ports in the first half of the nineteenth century. Therefore, the purpose of this text is to write a narrative of its institutional history, in which the main topic under consideration will be the British consulate in Odessa, the vice-consulates, consuls and vice-consuls, but not in terms of highlighting the importance of the role that this consular service has played in Great Britain politics, but rather we aim to capture a classical history of British diplomacy where the main actor would be the staff of the British consular service as well as the institutions they organized and ran. The methodological approach in this text relies on classical study of diplomacy, by selecting from the primary source from The National Archives from Kew, London all the data which concern the organization and function of the British consulate from Odessa.*

Keywords: *James Yeames, British consulate, Odessa, Black Sea, salaries, vice-consulates.*

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¹ Lucia Patrizio Gunning, *The British Consular Service in the Aegean, 1820-1860*, University College London, PhD thesis, 1997, p. 13.

La Roumanie et la paix russo-ottomane de San Stefano

Gheorghe Cliveti*

The Romania and the Russo-Ottoman Peace of San Stefano

Abstract: The military involvement of Romania in the Russo-Turkish War of 1877 created high expectations in Bucharest regarding the organization of peace and the country's new international status. However, towards the end of 1877 and the beginning of 1878, Romania found itself in a very complicated situation. At the end of the military campaign, the political elite in Bucharest, led by Carol I, was increasingly convinced that Russia had become a real danger to the country. Events on the European continent were unpredictable, and this further heightened the fears of Romanian leaders. Romanian politicians genuinely feared that the country might be invaded or even 'crushed' by the way Russia viewed, solely by virtue of its army's victories against Turkey, the 'resolution of the Eastern crisis,' assuming a reconfiguration 'under the gracious tutelage of the Tsar,' of Southeastern Europe. This study is a reassessment of the position adopted by Romania in relation to the negotiations that led to the signing of the Treaty of San Stefano and its provisions, considered burdensome for Bucharest. Romania lacked the guarantee of the Great Powers, a fact that made the young state very vulnerable to neighbors such as Tsarist Russia.

Keywords: Carol I, San Stefano, Mihail Kogălniceanu, Russia.

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Intrarea României în Primul Război Mondial (august 1916). Reacții și reflecții în presa rusă

Iana Balan *

Romania's entry into the First World War (August 1916). Reactions and reflections in the Russian press

Abstract: Romania's entry into the First World War, an anticipated moment after two years of neutrality and intense negotiations with the belligerent camps, produced immediate reactions in the political and military circles of the states involved in the conflict. One of the appearances of these responses to Romania's decisive action can be found in the press. Even if it is a subjective source, the press offers the possibility of an analysis of the interests of political circles, editors and financiers of newspapers.

The Russian press and its reactions regarding Romania's position during the First World War are of particular interest in the research of Romanian-Russian relations from this period. Thus, Russian editors did not avoid the topic of Romania's neutrality, periodically there were mentions of Bucharest's position. At the same time, the declaration of war and the events that followed this episode were the premises of a stream of articles referring to Romania and its actions within the conflict. The articles were informative, but primarily propaganda, praising Russia's new ally and the successful actions of the Romanian Army. The focus on Romania's successful offensive was taken over by most of the researched newspapers, even though often the information rendered was repetitive. The articles had several characteristics: informative, with historical, geographical, ethnographic and demographic descriptions, analyses, portraits of the members of the royal family of Romania or various caricatures as reactions to Romania's attitude.

The problem of researching such a source requires special attention to the historical context and censorship present in autocratic Russia. Thus, the military censorship approved at the beginning of the Great War involves the control and subjective grading of articles. At the same time, the phenomenon involves the censorship of published material and actually reflected Petrograd's policy regarding reactions to some events and not necessarily that of public opinion. Special attention was also

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drawn to the description of some events that exaggerated the Russian presence on the Romanian front, the archive documents combat the writings of the Russian editors. Another significant feature of Russian newspapers highlights several leitmotifs present in most of the newspapers researched regardless of the ideology and nature of the newspapers. Thus, among the repetitive elements was the victorious tradition of the victorious battles of the Russians alongside the Romanians, the myth of Russian “soldier-liberator”, the moral importance of the Romanian intervention and the fact that the territorial cessions will not be made at the expense of Russia. At the same time, the appearance of Romania on a positive note and the praise given to the Romanian Army at that time despite the tense and fluctuating Romanian-Russian relations can suggest Russia’s interest in Romania’s entry into the war, not just France’s, or is it just a hypothesis?

Keywords: *First World War, Romanian-Russian relations, Romania’s entry into the war, Russian press, censorship, propaganda, reactions.*

Adversaires, pas ennemis : la Hongrie et l'Italie à la fin du Premier conflit mondial

Francesco Guida*

Adversaries, not enemies: Hungary and Italy at the end of the First World War

***Abstract:** Italy and Hungary are two countries that, although they fought on different sides during the First World War, later found themselves in the group of states dissatisfied with the way peace was organized and the borders of the new Europe were drawn. Despite being adversaries, some contacts were maintained between political leaders in Budapest and Rome during the Great War. These connections intensified after the war's conclusion. Several Italian officials, diplomats, and military personnel were in Budapest during the Soviet Republic period and attempted to mediate a dialogue between the new Hungarian government and European chancelleries discussing the organization of peace. This study aims to reconsider the relationship between Italy and Hungary at the end of the First World War, two states that were in an adversarial position but were not true enemies.*

***Keywords:** Italy, Hungary, Romania, Béla Kun, Mihály Károlyi.*

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Relații politico-diplomatice româno-slovace (iunie-decembrie 1941)

Radu Florian Bruja*

Romanian-Slovak political-diplomatic relations (June-December 1941)

***Abstract:** Our study analyzes the oscillations of Romanian-Slovak political-diplomatic relations in the second half of 1941. The recovery of Bessarabia and northern Bukovina allowed Mihai Antonescu to resume the diplomatic offensive towards Transylvania. But the Romanian Foreign Minister's meetings with diplomat Ivan Milecz, head of the Slovak legation in Bucharest, were not successful. We took into account the contradictions in his diplomatic reports, the mistrust shown in Romania's ability to coordinate an anti-Hungarian diplomatic offensive and Germany's position on it. Contradictions on the Transnistria issue, Antonescu's anti-Slav statements and the position of German Minister Manfred von Killinger were the reasons why Slovak diplomacy did not meet Bucharest's expectations. The position of the Slovak diplomat was illustrated by that of his Romanian counterpart, accredited in Bratislava. The failure of the rapprochement policy did not disarm Mihai Antonescu, who resumed the cultural offensive in the autumn. Numerous cultural actions, the visit of Minister Ion Marinescu to Bratislava and the planned visit of Vojtech Tuka to Bucharest were the only concrete steps in strengthening Romanian-Slovak ties in the autumn of 1941. Last but not least, we have underlined the diplomatic action taken by Mihai Antonescu, visiting Berlin with the foreign ministers of the Tripartite Pact countries in November 1941, which put an end to the efforts of Romanian diplomacy to get closer to Slovakia in 1941.*

***Keywords:** Mihai Antonescu, political-diplomatic relations, Ivan Milecz, Gheorghe Elefterescu, Germany, Budapest, cultural relations.*

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Inteligenția sovietică în România: note de călătorie și rapoarte oficiale ale trimișilor sovietici în RPR (1945-1965)

Mihaela Botnari*

Soviet Intellectuals in Romania: Travel Notes and Official Reports of Soviet Envoys in the Romanian People's Republic (1945-1965)

Abstract: In the context of cultural exchanges between the hegemonic Soviet power and its satellite, Romania, a significant role was played by the exchange of experiences and the travels of a social category referred to generically as “intellectuals” during that time. Every year, dozens of Romanian-Soviet meetings took place in Romania, fostering mutual understanding among academics, writers, artists, and filmmakers. To study this phenomenon, I examined a series of institutional reports in the archives of Romania and the Russian Federation, as well as articles and brochures published by Soviet intellectuals about their travels and research in Romania. Despite the fact that most of the testimonies were written on command, we attempted to observe and contextualize details beyond the wooden language and political history clichés about “our defenders, Lenin and Stalin”. The Romanian-Soviet friendship project was not a simplistic one; it operated through numerous channels and took on multiple forms. International ideological competition led the project to gain new experiences and engage a wide range of actors, from cultural personalities to workers, collective farmers, and collectivists.

Keywords: Romanian-Soviet Cultural Relations, Soviet Propaganda, Intelighentia, Cold War.

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Propagandă externă și identitate. Expoziția de artă populară românească în SUA (1959-1960)

Paul Nistor*

External Propaganda and Identity. The exhibition of Romanian folk art in the USA (1959-1960)

Abstract: Beyond the political and ideological tensions of the Cold War, East and West agreed to experiment with cultural collaborations in the latter part of the 1950s. Among the proposed activities, Washington and Bucharest chose to exchange exhibitions, which they would tour in several locations, during the period 1958-1960. An American architecture exhibition was doubled by a Romanian folk art exhibition. The organizers of the Romanian exhibition, the specialists from the Romanian Institute for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, had a double effect in mind: the presentation of communist Romania as a civilized state, for which culture mattered, but also the impression of Romanian Americans, who had to learn that the new Romania had not sovietised, but was still promoting authentic national values. Although the exhibition was opened in four American cities, it did not reach any large cities with important Romanian communities. However, the good collaboration between Romanian diplomats, the State Department and American cultural institutions contributed to building relationships of trust and respect for the future.

Keywords: Cold War, Cultural diplomacy, Communist Romania, Eastern Europe.

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Scrisorile arhimandritului Gurie Grosu către mitropolitul Pimen Georgescu al Moldovei*

Lucian Corduneanu**

Ionel Moldovan***

The letters of Archimandrite Gurie Grosu to Bishop Pimen Georgescu of Moldova

Abstract: During the year 1918, between February 10 and July 13 (in the Julian calendar), the Bessarabian Archimandrite Gurie Grosu (who would become Archbishop and Metropolitan of his home region during the interwar period), sent at least seven letters and a telegram to Pimen Georgescu, who was at that time the Metropolitan of Moldavia and the Primate of the Romanian Orthodox Church. During our doctoral research we discovered these eight documents placed in three files from The Archives of the Metropolis of Moldavia and Bukovina in Iași and editing them in their entirety in the second part of the text.

In the first part, we outlined the context of the re-establishing of the contacts between the Romanians from the two banks of the Prut river, which were separated for 106 years by the Russian Empire, which annexed the Eastern part of Moldavia (the second medieval Romanian principality) back in 1812. The text also includes a brief description of the two ecclesiastical personalities, Archimandrite Gurie and Metropolitan Pimen, as both had important roles in the creation process of the Greater Romania.

Keywords: The Archives of the Metropolis of Moldavia and Bukovina, correspondence, Orthodox Church, Bessarabia, 1918.

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**Note bibliografice și recenzii/
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