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ABSTRACT

Camelia ZAVARACHE, „*The entire family should regain the happiness that has united them at the beginning*”. *Parliamentary debates regarding marriage in the Civil Code (1906) and their social consequences during the interwar period*

The Romanian Civil Law passed during the second half of the XIXth century has remained unchanged until 1906, when the Conservatory executive decided it was time to update the regulations regarding marriage, divorce and legitimacy. The main purpose of the initiative was that of relieving the population living in rural areas of the burden of providing numerous documents in order to get married, reducing thus the number of illegitimate children. However, it was the changes brought to the divorce regulations that have generated a fierce opposition from the members of the Liberal Party, causing the artisans of the law to discard a part of their proposals. Therefore, the final version of the project has been more moderate than the one envisioned initially, leading to important social consequences during the first half of the XXth century. There is no doubt that one of the most significant consequence was the interdiction of a second marriage for divorced couples that reconciled, and the illegitimate children that they produced. For them, the judicial system in effect until the Second World War had no understanding and no solutions.

Keywords: *Civil Law, Parliament debates, Conservatory Party, Marriage, Divorce, Illegitimate Children.*

Gabriela DRISTARU, *Bessarabia and Russian-Romanian Relations at the beginning of the First World War (August – December 1914)*

Bessarabia did not represent a real problem in the Russian-Romanian negotiations at the beginning of the First World War, as was the case of Transylvania and the relations between Romania and Austria-Hungary. In fact, neither of the two countries involved in this dispute, Romania and the Russian Empire, was having a plan or strategy regarding this province. Both cabinets tested each other's views about the issue, but it did not evolve into a desideratum, in the Romanian case, or into a real concern, in the Russian case. Rather, Bessarabia appears in the diplomatic documents as a means of negotiation when the pressure of discussions was becoming too high or when these negotiations were not developing in the expected direction.

Keywords: *Bessarabia, First World War, Russian-Romanian relations, negotiation.*

Radu TUDORANCEA, *Alexandru Tzigara Samurcaș during the years of occupation (1916-1918). New archival sources*

The present paper deals with the behaviour of Romanian intellectuals which have remained on the occupied territory during the First World War, focusing on a key-player Romanian personality of that time, namely Alexandru Tzigara Samurcaș, often labelled by some of his opponents as being a *colaborationist*. Blamed for his close relations with the representatives of German Administration, Alexandru Tzigara Samurcaș obviously needs a new and balanced approach regarding his conduct, without exaggerations and *parti-pris*.

The research tackles the controversy surrounding his activity during the occupation of a significant part of Romanian territory (including Bucharest) by the Central Powers, starting with his conduct as Chief of (Romanian) Police of Bucharest and representative of the Romanian Royal House and continuing with the polemics with other Romanian major personalities which continued during the interwar decades.

Based on new archival sources, the research is oriented towards unveiling all significant aspects related to his activity, including the rationale behind many of his initiatives, both during the war/occupation and after.

Keywords: *Romania, First World War, Bucharest under Occupation, Cultural debates, Alexandru Tzigara Samurcaș*

Simion GHEORGHIU, *Gheorghe Gheorghiu Dej in the Soviet/Russian documents and historiography*

In this article we aim to present, based on sources from the former Soviet archives and contemporary Russian historiography, the way in which the Romanian communist leader Gheorghe Gheorghiu-Dej is reflected.

Knowing these documentary contributions offers us the possibility of a better understanding, and a more accurate interpretation, of a series of moments that Romania went through during the period when he was in charge of the country.

Keywords: *Gheorghiu-Dej regime, Gheorghiu-Dej in Soviet documents, Gheorghiu-Dej in Soviet memoirs, contemporary Russian historiography, Gheorghiu-Dej at the UN.*

Simona PREDA, *The Profile of the Propagandist within Educational System during the communist regime (1948-1989)*

The ideological/propaganda worker/commissar was the leader of political education circles, the framework and the core of the Party capable to make speeches, inspire the masses, and convey the political message of the establishment to the public. These agents of propaganda – also known as agitators, propagandists, ideologists or lecturers, at different stages in the history of Romanian communism – were true craftsmen and vehicles of the voice of political power operating in educational institutions. The activity of the propagandists – whether they operated in education or other areas – was assessed

by the Propaganda and Agitation Section. The Section watched closely how they understood, appropriated and applied in practice the Party's decisions and guidelines, reporting to the local Party Committee on all of these aspects.

Keywords: *The Propagandist, Romania, Education, Propaganda, Communism.*

Florin ANGHEL, *The memory of Stalinism: Reading about Poland in the newspaper „Scântea”, 1948-1953*

It is clear, both from the political decision in Warsaw and Bucharest, and from the reading of „Scântea”, that the relations between Romania and Poland after the Second World War but especially after the proclamation of the People's Republic in Bucharest were neither close nor self-sufficient. During Stalin's lifetime, until the beginning of 1953, nothing was treasured in the bilateral connection, as had happened after the First World War when, even the first months of peace had brought with them a number of joint actions and calls for strategic alliance, including the establishment of a common border.

On the contrary, after 1948 this memory is repudiated and the protagonists are criticized. „Scântea” does not, of course, resume any of the episodes of the bilateral relationship between Romania and Poland in the interwar period and does not refer to any of its peak moments, even if the elapsed time was not long at all. For example, the Polish refuge in Romania in the autumn of 1939 and its prolongation in the wartime years had taken place only a few years before the abdication of King Michael, on December 30, 1947 and the entry of Romania into totalitarianism.

The image of Poland in Stalinist Romania is flawless from a dogmatic-ideological point of view: almost certainly a more perfect template is hard to find in the editorial spaces of the other offices of the communist parties in the states occupied by the USSR. Being a story fully accepted by Moscow and the Soviet occupiers, the image of Stalinist Poland also became an indigestible text for the general public. And further, continuing in patterns and without any relevance in bilateral relations, until the early 1990s, after the collapse of communist regimes, Romania and Poland went separately as minor regional interests and options, other than those imposed by the USSR, throughout the Cold War. A situation completely contrary, of course, to the golden stories of the „alliance of hearts” from the interwar period.

Keywords: *Poland, Stalin, communism, „Scântea”, Polish-Romanian relations, Gheorghiu-Dej regime.*

Lucian VASILE, *The invisible line. Gheorghe Saramet Spy's biography (II)*

The article seeks to explore and analyse the biography of Gheorghe „Gigi” Saramet, a secret agent used by the Romanian counterintelligence in different missions throughout late 40s and early 50s. His tasks were to identify certain aspects inside the country, but the main mission was an immense success for Bucharest: to infiltrate the The Exiled Romanian Officers' Intelligence Service (the secret service of the Romanian National Committee in exile) and to annihilate its networks inside the country. Although he accomplished extremely well the assignments and he was highly praised by his

superiors, his vanity brought him down and transformed him into a political prisoner. However, his life after liberation was even darker and his paths are unclear which can only add the myth created around his name. Despite all the missing parts of his biography, Gheorghe 'Gigi' Saramet stands as one of most intriguing figures of the Romanian spies that were active in the first years of the Cold War.

Keywords: *Gheorghe Saramet, Romanian Intelligence Service, Spy Network, Romanian Military Exile, Double Agent.*

Cristian VASILE, *The Young Romanian Writers and the Political Nonconformism in 1970s and 1980s in Ceausescu's Romania*

Using mainly diaries, journals, secondary literature and archival documents, this article analyses the strategies carried on out by the communist regime in order to coerce the young generation to assume the new literary-political ideology of revolutionary humanism (the Socialist Realism of the Ceausescu era). On the other hand, we took into account the nonconformist initiatives and actions assumed by the young writers either in writing or through manifestations in the various literary circles that functioned in the 1970s and 1980s. Firstly, one analysed the significance of the appointing in the communist government of the first secretary of the Communist Youth Organization's Central Committee at the end of 1967. We also discussed the role of the literary magazines belonging to the Communist Youth and various universities ("Amfiteatru", "Viața Studențească", "Echinox", "Dialog", "Convingeri comuniste") in promoting a literature that went beyond the official literary canon.

Both the mature and the younger generation of writers have shown great reluctance to escalate the political nonconformism, instead preferring "resistance through culture", that is avoiding open confrontation with political power by assuming dissent and counterculture as it existed in Poland in the 1980s.

Keywords: *Young Writers, nonconformism, literary circles, communist regime, Ceausescu.*

Mioara ANTON, *The youth national building sites: from the illusion patriotic voluntarism to forced labor*

Using open historical sources and archival documents, this article attempts to clarify the role which the young generation played in the long-term economic plans of the communist regime. From this perspective, the education of the young generation in the cult of labor became a priority for the regime's ideologues. This was achieved through amending the labor laws, imposing the obligation of patriotic labor, ideological pressures, and administrative constraints. Work-to-work education has become the central theme of official narratives relating to the youth. Reopening the youth national building sites and the revival of the mythology of the brigadier movement responded to the economic needs of the regime which was used for free the youth workforce.

At the beginning of the 70s, the youth building sites were the constitutive part of the systematization program which involved the participation of youth in the construction of irrigations system, railways, schools, sports fields, and last but not least the Danube-Black Sea Canal. In the regime's rhetoric, voluntary labor has become synonymous with

patriotic duty. Behind the voluntary labor was actually hidden a whole system of constraints and punishments. The refusal to fulfill the patriotic duties, which multiplied alongside the economic crises of the regime, was sanctioned as a disciplinary violation and disrespect for socialist norms. The entire country, from the youngest to the oldest, was forced to participate in various works for the benefit of the communist state. The propagandistic revival of the spirit of the brigadier movement from the 50s aimed to cultivate the socialist austerity and the uniforming norms, both contained in the empty formula of patriotic duty.

Keywords: *Brigadier Movement, Socialist labor camps, Patriotic labor, Socialist humanism, Golden Age.*

Narcis TULBURE, *Data Poverty in a Thoroughly Planned Economy: Statistics and Data in Socialist Romania*

This article focuses on the contrasting conceptualization, production, circulation, and use of economic data across the Iron Curtain during the socialist period. With the progressive mathematization of economic science after the Second World War, statistics became of paramount importance ‘East’ and ‘West’ of the Curtain. Data about the economy was not only an object of political intervention and a means to control the economy but became progressively an arena for political competition within and between the two ideological blocs. Presenting a few of the most significant disputes among political authorities and practitioners of disciplines as diverse as economic planning, statistics, cybernetics, and economic informatics, I will illustrate some interweaving trajectories of persons, data-based statistical objects, and forms of knowledge that shaped the socialist and post-socialist infrastructures of economic knowledge production. I claim that, while global disputes over the quality, standardization, and accessibility of data during and after the Cold War stimulated statistical research and occasioned new professional trajectories in both the socialist and capitalist worlds, forms of technical knowledge emerging in micro-communities of quantitative specialists ‘East’ and ‘West’ of the Curtain telescoped into a global competition for knowledge about the economy being magnified by an ideological lens. Such processes of knowledge constitution, contestation, and dissemination have framed our understanding of the economy and continue to shape the world we live in.

Keywords: *Data, Statistics, Data poor economies, Communist central planning, Secrecy*

Cosmin POPA, *Elena Ceaușescu and the diversion of feminism*

The article deals with the gender policy of the communist regime in Romania, after the propulsion of Elena Ceaușescu at the head of the party and the state. Based on statistical data, the author shows that despite intense propaganda campaigns, the political and professional emancipation of women in communist Romania has experienced an organic evolution, almost unaffected by the many official programs that aimed at greater involvement of women in politics. In support of the statement, statistical information is

provided on the evolution of the number of women in management positions in the economy, higher education and central administration. However, the indisputable effect of official policies was the massive integration of women at the base of the national economy, the female labour force registering a massive increase between 1973-1989, which together with the repressive policy of increasing the birth rate, led to the accentuation of triple oppression of women.

Keywords: *Elena Ceaușescu, gender policies, leadership, statistics, women.*

Claudia-Florentina DOBRE, *Neither Victim, Nor Heroine. The Role Played by the Life Stories in Identity Building in the case of Romanian Women Former Political Prisoners*

This study, based on the idea assessed by Hannah Arendt in *The Human Condition* according to which the storytelling is a strategy „for transforming private into public meanings”, and further discussed by Michael Jackson in his book, *The Politics of Storytelling*, who underlined that the storytelling is also a strategy „for sustaining a sense of agency in the face of dis-empowering circumstances”, aims at developing even further those two ideas arguing that storytelling is also fashioned by the social, cultural and political context as well as by the „social realms of memory”. Using the findings of a research among women, former political detainees during communism in Romania, this article emphasizes the role of storytelling in helping those women to overcome the trauma of the repression as well as in enhancing their agency while building an identity of anti-communist fighter.

Keywords: *Storytelling, Identity, Trauma, Women, Former Political Prisoners, Anticommunism.*