

THE PLACE OF TRANSILVANIA WITHIN THE POLITICAL AND ETHNIC FRAMEWORK OF THE ROMANIAN STATE¹

”Our sun rises from Bucharest”

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Abstract

The First World War brought unimaginable suffering to the Romanian people, tragic consequences for thousands of families who saw their sons lives squandered on the fields of defense of the territory as well as the riches and wealth of the country destroyed and stolen for the benefit of looters who considered that the exploitation of the Romanian territories was a right of the winner. The payment for the sufferings has never been done for the families of the Romanians, but the history of Transylvania and the Romanian lands has the mercy to place all Romanians in their place next to the ethnic homeland, as it was written in the eternal and fascinating fate of Dacia Felix.

Now, 100 years after the union, the sun of the Romanians, from Bucharest, pale and hidden among the clouds of neighboring interterests, like then, tries to shine through the eyes and souls of the three brothers: the Vallachian, the Moldavian and the Transilvanian.

1. Preparing the robbery and exploitation of the country by occupants during the war

The Romanian regiments were sent to the slaughter of the First World War, headed by the tricolor and under the motto of the anthem "Deșteaptă-te, române!", which reminded of the ordeal of the forced union of Transylvania with Hungary within the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy. For the Romanians called at arms from Transylvania, called at arms by Austro-Hungary, it was a whole tragedy, as Romanians, to fight against their own people, especially since after Romania's declaration of neutrality, Budapest in the words of Count Tisza, said as reply to a Romanian deputy: "I know that Romania wants Transylvania. They will have it, perhaps, but without Romanians." The Romanian regiments were sent to the most dangerous places, so as the Romanians would fight among themselves as assault regiments, the result being 100,000 dead soldiers, yet there would be the millions of families who benefited the result of their sons' sacrifice. As their sons were fighting on the front, families at home were subjected to a relentless program of denationalization, they suffered mistreatment and a chauvinist policy.

In the first part of the war, in the conditions of a better equipped, armed and supranumeric army, as well as by the exit from the war of Russia, Romania had to fight Germany, Austria, Hungary, Bulgaria and Turkey, so most of the territory was occupied by enemies, the surface of the enemy military administration being in an area of 65064 sqkm, half of the area of the old

kingdom of Romania. The occupation included the counties: Mehedinți, Gorj, Dolj, Râmnicu-Vâlcea, Prahova, Ilfov and Ialomița. Here there was an odious economic exploitation by the "Major Economic State", which was already established since 1916, the territory to be occupied being allocated for economic expulsion in favor of the armies and "the homesteads"¹, for the food and feed necessary for the troops on the front, the raw materials being sent to the enemy countries, according to a predetermined algorithm.

The guiding idea was not the occupation of Romania to take it out of the war, but the occupation for exploitation, the supreme Commandant being of the opinion that the military governor is obliged to "take great care as to rise from Romania all that can be lifted up." All products, materials will serve the economies of the conquering countries, to support the arms of the front, the distribution being made with the requisited means of transport. Wagons loaded with products or materials had a direct stop-free line to Germany, Austria, Hungary, Bulgaria, Turkey, returning immediately to recharge. The Transport Office organized the shipments from the requisites by attaching transport bulletins, the value of the materials, the weight, the name of the consignee and the owner, the destination station. The distribution ratio was established weekly. The major economic state initially had its headquarters at Drobeta Turnu Severin, after the occupation of Bucharest the headquarters moved to the capital, the economic exploitation being organized quickly, this being explained by the fact that the plan was drawn up before the war, the circumstances being favorable to its realization.

¹ This Communication was drawn up on the basis of data and information resulting from two papers:

a) The work published within the General Statistics Department – The service of classification of documents left by the enemy, **Romania under the enemy occupation**, fascicle II - Economic exploitation of the country - author Ilie I. GEORGIANU, Tipografia Publishing House "Culture of the Romanian Nation" 1020;

b) Transylvania in the light of the geopolitical, historical and statistical data - author Dr. Stefan PASCU, head of the Institute of National History from Cluj-Sibiu, Lumina Publishing House - Miron Rosu, Blaj, 1944;

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¹ Governor was the German general Tullf von Tscheppe und Weidenbach, and empowered by the attacking countries were General V.Sandler for Austro-Hungary, General Osman Nizami Pasa for Turkey and General Tantiloff from Bulgaria (n.a.)

In the first part of the war there were 10 economic exploitation sections as follows:

1. The geography of the country;
2. Finance;
3. Food and feed;
4. Raw materials;
5. Fatty materials and mineral oils;
6. Agriculture;
7. Wood;
8. Workers;
9. Expedition;
10. Use of machines.

The exploitation areas have increased with the occupation of Romania, as follows:

1. Bucharest Command Area, with the Ilfov area on the northern side;
2. Pitesti area with counties Vâlcea, Romanați, Argeș, Olt and Teleorman;
3. Craiova area, of which Mehedinți, Gorj and Dolj counties also belonged;
4. Ploiești area with the counties Muscel, Dâmbovița, Prahova and Vlașca;
5. Călărași area, where the southern part of the Ilfov county and the Ialomița county also enter.

Nr. Crt.	County	Commandment	Nr. Crt.	County	Commandment
1	Mehedinți	German	8	Teleorman	German
2	Gorj	German	9	Muscel	German
3	Dolj	German	10	Târgoviște	Austrian
4	Vâlcea	Austrian	11	Vlașca	German
5	Romanați	Austrian	12	Prahova	German
6	Argeș	German	13	Ilfov	German
7	Olt	German	14	Ialomița	German

In its last organization, the enemy Command of Economic Operation had 17 sections because the huge riches found in Romania exceeded by far their most optimistic hopes. Thus, since 1917, during full occupation there were the following sections:

1. Procurement of food and feed with subdivisions: export, exploitation of mills, oils and fatty materials, egg collection, tobacco and other state monopolies, wine, gathering of fruits and vegetables of all kinds;
2. Agriculture with its subdivisions: field work, animals, administration of state and crown domains, agricultural industries, agricultural machinery, dairies;
3. Expeditions - transport with subsections: wagon procurement, shipment of goods on the Danube and railway to the border, preparation of transport documents, centralization of data regarding the transports carried out;
4. Raw materials and manufactures for war, with subdivisions: textile materials, raw and manufactured hides, skins and furs of all kinds, metals, chemicals and raw materials, unspecified in group A and C, forwarding and transport;
5. Statistics and distribution with: the distribution stations of the major economic state of T. Severin, Vârciorova, R. Vadului, Predeal, Giurgiu, the distribution of products between the central authorities, the export statistics on the Danube and on land;
6. Mineral oils, with: exploitation of factories and oil refineries, oilfield headquarters;
7. Wood industry: operation of saws and timber factories, timber shipment;
8. Forestry and hunting, with: exploitation of State and Crown forests, forestry and hunting police, log

cuts, firewood, luxury essences, wood charcoal, other forest derivatives;

9. Electrotechnics, with the following subsections: technical issues, procurement of electrical materials and cables for the plant and branches in Câmpina and Craiova;
10. Use of machines with the following subsections: procurement of machinery, machine installation, transmission belt assembly;
11. Fishing with the following subsections: Administration of State Fisheries, Purchase and Maintenance of Equipment, Distribution, Sale and Conservation of Fish;
12. Mines with subsections: mining of coal and salt, exploitation of other minerals, mining of state mines;
13. Industrial enterprises for war;
14. Economic Issues: Safeguarding Creditors, Forced Administrations;
15. Financial matters: settlement, issuance of general bank tickets
16. Proceedings;
17. Labor matters and the compensation office.

On April 28, 1917, the "Mixed Economic Commission in Romania" was set up with the purpose of the Confidential Circular of 3 May 1917 to intensify the efforts of the enemy administration to send to the "countries" the necessary cereals so long as they still existed in the country, through "volunteering" of the population to the requisites. Practically, the requisition orders could be handed over by a Romanian organ so as the inhabitants should understand the orders of the military administration more quickly. In determining the quantities to be requisitioned, it was not taken into account the domestic consumption needs of the civilian population, so that the entire cereal stock had to be exported. Another monstrous task of this committee

was to evaluate the next year's harvest as the cereals were harvested 6 weeks before the harvest in Germany and Austria, so that the Romanian production was to be shipped during that time in the occupying countries. For this, the commission was to review the quantities, establish rationalized consumption, protect crops, work with the agricultural population. In each commune

people of "trust" were recruited, subordinated to the economic offices, that had to work together with the mayor, the notary, the priest and the teacher to convince the population about the obligation to give the crops.

We exemplify below the quantities of grain, fodder, and other food exported by the enemy from 1 December 1916 to 31 October 1918¹:

Product name	DESTINATION COUNTRY				TOTAL
	GERMANY	AUSTRO-HUNGARY	TURKEY	BULGARIA	
	TONS				
Wheat	483002	643957	140273	5950	1273182
Corn	224613	242089	22921	5747	485370
Other Cereals and beans	43716	45770	553	4574	94613
Other food and feed	195540	62879	3702	471	262592
Oleaginous	24239	11843	60	6	36148
TOTAL	971110	1006538	167509	16784	2161905

The exploitation of the occupied territory, apart from the requisites for the states mentioned above, was also made individually by the soldiers who were on leave or on vacation and who simply took large quantities of products from the citizens of the area where they were housed, food up to a weight of 25 kg personally or sending parcels of 10 kg /pack as much as they wanted. Based on Order no. 172 of the Superior Commander v.Mackensen from March 3rd, 1917, it was permissible for the departure of soldiers in the permits or holidays to be supplied from Romania with foodstuffs, so that they were dispatched to the

"homeland" only in August 1917, 322 wagons with goods. In total, 1002 wagons with parcels were dispatched during this plunder, of which 970 in Germany and 32 wagons in Austro-Hungary¹.

An unimaginable operation of "lifting" animals and birds from the courtyards of disobedient inhabitants has been carried out during the war, according to official data, that were often forged in minus, they exported to the enemy countries 25,870 birds, 86,292 horned cattle, 97,563 sheep and goats, 106,331 pigs, as follows:

Name	Destination countries					TOTAL
	Germany	Austro-Hungary	Turkey	Second stage	Dobrogea	
Poultry	15881	9995	-	-	-	25870
Horned cattle	7217	55436	76	23563	-	86292
Sheep and goats	1900	9579	135	85424	326	97563

¹ Export statistics from Romania during December 1, 1916 - October 31, 1918, made on 4 November 1918 by the Romanian Railways Commander.

¹ On a simple calculation, assuming 6,000 kg in a wagon, it is estimated that the total expedition from Romania until the end of August 1917 was 6,000,000 kg. various items mostly food belonging to the military of the German and Austro-Hungarian military formations. At the time of the official export report, the number of military "beneficiaries" was 480,000 people. (N/A.)

Pigs	29323	72535	-	4491	-	106351
Other	100	-	-	-	-	100

From the calculations of the Austro-Hungarian foresight service, the food and fodder requisitioned in Romania in the harvest of 1917, would have arrived to feed 53.5 million inhabitants of Austro-Hungary for 26 days on wheat, and 37 days on wheat and corn,

considering the ratio of 280 grammes per resident. Excepting the food, the occupation army took from the country raw materials and other products, during December 1 - October 31, 1918, as follows:

Name	Destination Countries				TOTAL
	Germany	Austro-Hungary	Tukey	Bulgaria	
	Quantities in tons				
Raw and manufactured skins	9017	5348	12	302	14679
Wood	80792	92035	6292	22034	201153
Salt	2403	7654	-	8388	93945
Machines, tools, iron and metals	6351	36284	8312	6528	57475
Chemicals	629	1042	130	258	2059
Alcohol, spirits, tobacco, tobacco products	5916	2686	85	-	8687
Various goods	20965	9998	783	2662	34408
TOTAL	131441	159666	15623	115704	422434

The plundering of natural wealth meant 42,243 wagons of raw materials, of which on the first was wood with 201153 tons, salt from which 93945 tons were exported, but also all the metals, the division between the occupying countries being made in the extent that they were needed in country which did not had such products for the needs of the army or the population.

The most exported products, which lacked the central powers, especially Germany, which were

usually imported from Romania, were the petrolifer products that constituted a first-rate target for the enemy, the febrile setting up of the facilities being done in the shortest amount of time. Austro-Hungary received crude oil, which they transferred to Galicia for refining, while gasoline and diesel oil were shipped to Germany for the supply of war machines. From 1 December 1916 to 31 October 1918 1,140,809 tonnes of oil products were exported to the occupying countries, as follows:

Name	Destination countries				TOTAL
	Germany	Austro-Hungary	Turkey	Bulgaria	
	Quantities in tons				
Gas	127127	227	710	770	128834
Light gasoline	102158	229	1315	125	103827
Unrefined gasoline	101858	3983	8094	1686	115621
Diesel	206610	112	-	-	206722

Crude oil	1371	226172	4	9	227556
Other oil products	60566	406	159	164	61295
TOTAL	889944	231176	13825	5864	1140809

The entire maintenance of the occupying troops was based on requisitions from the population of Romania, so the rations of the military were generously increased, as Romanians had to survive with a minimum of food¹.

Monthly occupation troops consumed an amount of 19290 tons of hay, 4280 tons of wheat, 4448 tons of flour, 259 tons of semolina, 35 tons of pasta, 3140 tons of bran, 10175 tons of barley, oats including corn, 940

tons of corn meal, 550 tons of barley and coffee surrogate, 1628 tons of vegetables, a total of 4474 food and feed wagons. From the report of the head of the Austro-Hungarian Economic Committee of Section I, in eight months, 40,000 pigs were consumed for the needs of the army. The occupying army consisted of 480,000 people and 140,000 horses, these numbers being taken into account in all calculations with food and feed needs, in 23 months, as follows:

Cereals and feed / tons	Quantity	Observations
Wheat	98440	
Flour	102304	
Semolina	5957	
Pasta	805	
Corn meal	21620	
Vegetables	37329	
Oats, barley and corn	234025	
Barley and coffee surrogate	12650	
Bran	72920	
Hay	443670	
TOTAL	4029029	

Between December 1916 and November 1918, the maintenance of the occupying troops consumed more than 100,000 food and feed wagons.

2. Procurement of goods and merchandise during occupation

The goods and merchandise necessary for the enemy were categorized into two large groups, the first being the ones intended to support the occupation army, the second being needed for the internal consumption of the enemy¹.

Both categories were "procured" in Romania by three methods:

- Requisitions for the acquisition of the goods, the goods being taken from the owners and becoming property of the army²;
- Usage requisitions, the owners retaining their right to property on the goods but losing the right of use throughout the period of their use by the army³;
- Goods held by the owner, the purpose being to be lifted when the army needs them⁴;

There were also so-called small requisites, that were simply taken from several owners at once. The requisitions were made without the owners agreeing, the property takeover was done by announcing the inhabitants through "Ordinances", by terrorizing the population, applying harsh punishments, fines, imprisonment or executions by shooting. For example, on May 8, 1917, in Văleni, the following order was issued to the population:

"The Command will buy supplies of lard and bacon. Prices will be settled afterwards. Mayors will immediately start collecting items in their communes. Let it be known that if enough quantities of lard and bacon are not to be handed over, forced requisitions will be made in this case, of course, without any payment."

In Cîmpina with "Order no. 8 of 30 November 1917" the Economic Command communicates:

"Due to the limited harvest of potatoes and beans in Prahova County, the Command sees itself obliged to

¹ For a soldier the following food grade was allocated: 500 gr / bread, 200 gr / meat, 20 gr / lard, 25 gr / sugar, 2 cl.rom, 100 gr / marmalade, 250 gr / vegetables, 125 gr / millet, 200 gr / pea flour, 60gr / dried vegetables, 750 gr / potatoes, 200 gr / pasta, 450gr / cabbage, 1200 gr / fresh vegetables, 30 gr / tobacco. These quantities were modified by adding extras from May 1, 1918. Ten thousand men were distributed 10 candles, 100 packs of matches, 125 grams of clothing soap, 50 grams of soap for individual washing, ½ liter of wine, ¾ liter of beer, 1/10 liter of alcohol, ½ liter of milk. The officers had extra rations, and the animals like horses and service dogs had special rations.

¹ Feldrequisitionsgüter - goods and merchandise needed by the army of occupation

Wirtschaftsgüter - products and merchandise for export to the countries of occupation (n.a.)

² Aneignungsbeschlagnahmen oder Entneigung (n.a)

³ Gebrauchsbeschlagmahme (n.a)

⁴ Sicherungsbeschlagnahme (n.a.)

seize all potatoes and beans supplies. Whoever sells from these foods will be fined up to 3000 lei or imprisonment up to 6 months, by election, or with both punishments at once and the products will be seized free of charge."

For requisitioned products, the owners received a "requisition letter" or "receipt". On the basis of these, indemnities were given, the bills being drawn up in duplicate (white and red), the white ones being received by the owner and the other by the town hall. The price or value was never listed on the white papers, but only on those that were retained by the town hall, so that the owner did not know upon requisition what price he would receive for the goods he was taken. For the property let in custody at the owner no receipt were received, but they were requisitioned in the extent in which the goods were owned by the state (not paid), the owners (the owner lost the right of use) or if the articles were clandestinely brought to the market they were confiscated.

3. Settlement of requisitioned goods

In a meeting held on October 29th 1916 at the Berlin War Minister, attended by the allies: Germans, Austro-Hungarians, Turks (arrived after the debates), a protocol was drawn up on the means of payment for the purchase of products which will be raised from Romania. In order not to jeopardize the finances of Germany and its allies, it was decided to grant the Romanian General Bank, contrary to the existing laws of the occupied country, the right to issue banknotes - new lei - with a forced course for all the inhabitants. "The central purchasing society in Berlin" took these banknote issues with which they bought the Romanian goods, practically the occupation forces did not pay for the requisitioned goods, in fact these being taken free of charge. The Ministry of War was part of these financial operations through "forced agreement", the General Bank of Romania making this issue of new banknotes in the Bank of the German Empire, but could not make any financial operation, had no right over loans and deposits open into the account of the issue section. The Romanian General Bank received "once and for all", a benefit of 1/8 of the value of banknotes issued by the new lei issue section. The banknotes were used according to the provisions of the German Ministry of War to cover the expenses in the occupied territory for the payment of the goods "purchased" by the economic major state, as well as for covering the expenses of the administration of the occupied territory.

At the War Ministry meeting of October 28th, 1916, it was shown the purpose of the issue of new lei regarding the covering of war expenses. Until the "settling of peace" the central powers had no expense account obligation, the 50 million marks placed on the

settlement accounts had to remain intact, and at the conclusion of the meeting it was stated that: "The payment of the issued banknotes will be made at the end of peace talks, when the Romanian government will be forced to pay the entire issue. Thus the deposits covered by the Bank of the Empire will be returned to the parties, and the allies of the central powers will have received free of charge the goods procured from Romania." It was also shown in this meeting that after the conclusion of the peace, for a period of 6 months, the Romanian General Bank will be obliged to pay out of its own funds a new issue of tickets, for these ones lose their validity after they will be covered. As a result of this state fraud, it was proceeded to the issue of new Lei in divisions of 1000, 100, 20, 1 lei, 50 and 25 bani, that were used to pay in the occupied territory. Later, divisive bundles of 5 and 2 lei were also introduced. By May 8th, 1918, banknotes worth of 1.6 billion lei were issued, all of which were used to undergo productive and directly exporting operations, productive but non-exportable operations and unproductive operations. Basically, with the money made in Romania, which later could not be used anymore, financed all production, transport and pay-for-service operations. After the war, debts to Romania resulting from the looting of the country through this system were never paid.

In the autumn of 1917, right after Russia came out of the war, the Central Powers, not having the guarantee of the peace signed with Romania, in the chancelleries of the German and especially the Austro-Hungarian war ministries, raised the issue of the economic exploitation of Moldova, that was to be occupied, so that in September 1917 a plan for the occupation of Moldova was made. The Austro-Hungary was not pleased that Germany took the lion's share of Romania's occupied part, so it announced on September 23rd a circular stating that "the experience gained with the occupation and exploitation of Wallachia and Oltenia by the armies of the central powers determines the idea of taking early measures to conclude a convention on the exploitation of Moldova, in case this territory will also have to be occupied⁵".

This odious plan concretizes the exploitation intentions by dividing the territory, by a petroleum convention, an economic convention, a navigation convention on the Danube. Historical events, Romania's strong return to war for the liberation of the occupied territory, the resounding victories over the enemy through the unparalleled bravery of the Romanian soldiers in the struggles on all fronts led the liberation of the entire territory, and even to the special retaliation against the Hungarian army that wanted to act after the theoretical termination of the war until the liberation of Budapest and the defeat of the communist factions allied with Soviet Russia.

⁵ The Confidential Report of 31/8/1917 of General V.Sandler specified the need to establish a ratio on the division of territory between occupants for exploitation regarding the railways, the formation of requisition Commands, the exploitation of goods, incomes and resources under the conditions of occupying the territory up to Siret or up to the Prut.

4. The World War and Transylvania

The war found Transylvania in an intense process of denationalization of the Romanian population. The politics of feudal features of the Hungarians who do not recognize any rights for the majority population, neither political, nor religious, nor economic, materialized in the permanent offensive to denationalize the Romanians, to change the Romanian-speaking population with traditions, culture and religion, led after 1848.

The beginning of the war in 1914 finds exceptional measures in Transylvania where the assembly is forbidden, the integrity of the churches is violated, the freedom of the press is abolished, the autonomy of the Romanians' religion is suppressed, the population is threatened with trial in the "Martial Court", and the Romanians who sympathize with their brothers across the border are considered "homeland traitors" and confiscated their possessions.

Romanian intellectuals are constantly watched, arrested, confined in concentration camps and prison rooms. Officials, Romanian teachers, priests were deported, and more than 50% of Romanian schools are closed. The prisons of Brasov, Fagaras, Cluj, Seghedin were full of "traitors", especially after Romania declared war on Austro-Hungary. The statements of Prime Minister I.C.Brătianu showed the state of the Romanians which Hungary held in social and national exploitation. It should be noted that in 1915 the Hungarian government prepared a colonization project for the Romanian population from Transylvania, in the counties of the Hungarian denture, a Hungarian population being supposed to be brought in their place. A so-called protection area is being designed not to allow the Romanians to settle less than 10 km from the

border. All Romanian newspapers and magazines were to be banned or drastically censored. The greatest blow was on church life. Through infiltrated agents, instead of metropolitan Metianu who was deceased, they assigned the renegade metropolitan Vasile Mangra who signed a document unfavorable to the Romanian people, the priests refused to sign, and thus were thrown into dungeons where they found their end. A special blow was given to Romanians in 1917 when at the proposition of Count Appony the Hungarian government approved the closure of the Romanian schools and the Romanian Church until new provisions, so that the confessional schools in Sibiu, Arad, Caransebes, Blaj, Oradea and Gherla were closed motivated by the fact that Romanians have an "antipatriotic" attitude due to school education.

I will not approach in this paper the entire epic of struggles for the recapture of the Romanian positions in front of the enemy troops, nor the struggles led with a bravery worthy of the ancient heroes for our country to be reunited. This was a work that can not be described in a few pages. However, I have to mention that after the dismantling of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy, on October 7, 1918, in the request for truce made by the Hungarian President to the President of the United States, on October 12th, 1918, in a statement made by Vasile Goldiș, it was affirmed the right of the Romanian people to represent themselves, the Hungarian government losing that right. The Romanian national guards in Transylvania were trying to defend the population against a terror unleashed by the Hungarian forces. The talks with Jászai Oscar, the minister of nationalities, failed mainly in the aftermath of the mass murder of Romanians by Urmánczy in Beliș⁶. As a result, the National Assembly in Alba Iulia

⁶ Cicerone Ionițoiu foaienationala.ro / romani-arși-pe-rug.html, accessed on 03.02.2018:

"Octavian Goga's 19th of April 1915 predictions were true:

In such circumstances, it is imperative for any true thinker that Austro-Hungarian populations need to be desorbed so that they can also be introduced into the serene world of the ideal; that is why the crushing of the Habsburg kingdom, the cleansing of this moral cancer from the body of Europe is a deep duty of international sanitation. At this gloom, we owe to assist. We, the Romanian people, are called to throw the first ball of dust on this guilty coffin.

We, because we have a greater war of suffering, and we present ourselves to this burial with the greatest pain in the soul ... The Romanian people in Transylvania served with gold, served with blood a millenary ingratitude, a thousand years of lying." He was a correspondent member of the Romanian Academy since May 29th, 1914 and a member of the Romanian Academy since June 4th, 1919. He was vice-president of the Romanian Academy from 1st of June 1929 to 30th of May 1932. From this prediction, much blood was to be spilled out by the poor Romanian serf. In the wake of the struggle, some were thrown into prison, others executed, others fought on the fronts to defend the cape that was not theirs, while the children and wives worked as slaves on the ancestral lands stolen by the groves, counts, magnates. As the end of the bloody reign was approaching, the oppression was even worse. The lack of arms made the petty Hungarians to bring Italian, Serb and Russian war prisoners to work. In the land of moats, 35 km south of Huedin, near the Izvorul Somesului Cald, a Hungarian magnate in Beliș, Ioan Urmanczy had made a field of 28,000 yugur, on which he built a monumental castle and a fir processing industry. In order not to cease work and lose profits, especially because of the Romanian serfs on the fronts, hundreds of war prisoners had been brought. The news of the imperial chaos was borne by the quarter-million Imperial soldiers, deserters, who roamed the land of the former monarchy. That's how it got into the heart of the mountains. And when the dismemberment had led to the outbreak of the Revolution in Budapest from November 1st, fear encompassed those who did not know themselves as masters on their land, but only oppressive enemies. Then, on November 4th, 1918, the Hungarian gendarmes with about 60 Romanian peasants from Giurcuța de Jos, Mărișel and Beliș led Ioan Urmanczy to Călățele, where he left for Budapest where he had a brother deputy in the Hungarian parliament. Prisoners of war worked hard under the burden of beatings and died of hunger. The most tortured were the Serbs. After the master's flight, the prisoners revolted leaving work and asked the administration to give them food to go home. Being refused they broke the storehouses, they killed the storekeeper, they took everything they could and went in different directions. Fearful, the Hungarian gendarmes fled to Huedin and announced Budapest. John URMANCZY formed a detachment of 65 people, whom he had armed with the help of the war ministry, putting in their arms weapons, bulky cartridges and machine guns. Under the command of Captain Antal Dietric they were sent with a special train to restore order to Beliș. In Bologa, a group of peasants who went to the woods to cut their logs for the winter stopped by curiosity of seeing a train of soldiers and the train stopped as well. The Hungarian soldiers jumped out and with the bayonet on the weapon they surrounded them. Some managed to escape. Others were forced to board the train. Among them, Ioan Molnar, Teodor Crisan, Ion Potra, Ignat Potra and Teodor Potra al Tifri. The train then crossed in front of the Morlaca stone quarry

was convened, under the chairmanship of the octogenarian Gheorghe Pop of Băsești and with a number of 1228 delegates, with the presence of over 100,000 people, it was decreed "The union with Romania of all Romanians from Transylvania, Banat and the Hungarian Country and of all the territories inhabited by them".

5. A few years after the Union, the interwar period

Romanians will never forget the sufferings of their ancestors in Transylvania, the suffering caused by a xenophobic, chauvinist, irrational policy directed at the destruction of the national being in long periods of time, and if this could not be accomplished due to the vitality of our people, culture and the belief in God, the hope that an astral moment of the union of all Romanians will emerge, they tried to magnetize the

in the valley of Călățele stream, where another group of Romanian peasants was also looking out of curiosity. The train stopped and the same Hungarians turned the machine guns and reaped the crowd. Numerous Romanian peasants have died, among them being recognized Jacob LUCACI, Maria BOCA, ... and the train continued its way to Huedin, where the Hungarian soldiers were welcomed with music and chorus. Captain Antal Ditrich ordered the detachment to shoot the peasants from Bologa. At the intervention of a Hungarian lawyer in Huedin, after much talk, their lives were spared, but they were badly beaten and disfigured. All bloody, barely able to stand on their feet, they were let go. Apart from the young Teodor Potra who was taken as a guide because he knew the Hungarian language. Of those from Bologa that had been "released", two peasants died because of the terrible beating, namely, old Ion POTRA of Tifri and Ion MOLNAR. The train of horror continued its way to Călățele and, on the way, the detachment thickened the number of Hungarians employed in the communes of Hungarian Mănăștur, Sâncraii, Huedin, Horlacea, which besides the equipment were offered 300 crowns a day. From Călățele the detachment walked down the direction of the Belis castle, stopped Mitrea TRIFON and Maria TRIF, whom they shot at the entrance to Belis village, the injured woman managing to escape by throwing herself in river. On November 7th, 1917, near noon, the detachment settled in the castle and the soldiers went to the hunting of the Romanian peasants. Eleven men and a woman were brought in and after they tortured them, they were shot. In the village there were also many peasants shot. The houses were robbed, the cattle raised and brought to the castle where the pigs were killed and the lard sent to Budapest by train. On the day of St. Michael and Gabriel, on November 8th, 1918, dozens of moons were killed. During this day, Nicholas Neagu, a former caretaker at the castle, took the carriage and lifted the dead from the village and the roads. He was terrified to find people slayed with the bayonet and their guts on the ground, others leaning on pillars, with an empty bottle in his mouth, in mockery. After the peasants were robbed after they were killed, they were thrown into the fire. On Todea Gheorghe Dodu, after repairing the telephone threads, under threat of death, they forced him to throw the dead in the fire. Over 25 corpses in the first line. They then continued to burn them. More than 40 died in the flames. The number of deaths was yet much higher. In the spring through the woods they would uncover dead bodies, perhaps even of the wounded or fugitive peasants. In fact, the moons have been hiding for weeks in the mountains out of fear, naked and without food. When the commission from Cluj arrived, on November 12th, it was astounding. Captain Advocate Valentin Poroutiu said: "... the most frightening scene of the revolution appeared to us. The potato store of the factory was burned to the ground. Only the cellar remained untouched. There's a pile of bodies in this cellar. On top there was a gypsy woman with clenched fists and a young military man aged 18-19. We were horrified and ran to Cluj in our cars. "This was during the negotiations in Arad when the Hungarians were still trying to obtain the Romanian goodwill for the continuation of cohabitation. The massacre at Belis led to: TOTAL DISSOLUTION. Here is a part of the reenactment made with those martyred on November 8th, 1918 in Belis, a commune located at the connection of the Hot Somes with the Belis brook.

BOLOGA Commune: Ion Potra of Trifi and Ioan Molnar

MORLACA Commune: Maria BOCA of Petri Halamului, Iacob LUCACIU, wife of Teodor FORT

BELIȘ Commune: Ioan BĂLC for 36 years burned at the stake, after him a child and his wife; Nicolae BĂLC of Luchi, 24 years old, burned at the stake, remaining helpless mother; Gheorghe MIHUȚ of Vili, 35 years old, burned, remaining wife and three children: Pascu, Măria and Laura; Șimion MIHUȚ, the postmaster, burned at the stake, 60 years; Varvara POP, born FORT, 44 years old burned at the stake, the remaining husband Vasile POP and three children Teodor, Ilie and Justina; Maria MATIS, shot and burned at the stake; Pascu POPA of Focuț, shot at 24 years; Alexandru PUICA, 49 years old, blacksmith, shot; Alexandru Puica, the 41-year-old wife shot dead; Dumitru TRIPON, 26 years old, burned, remaining Ana Tripon (wife) and one child.

VĂLENI Commune (Cluj): Ion VLAIC of Cotrești, of 35 years burned at the stake, widowed wife Caterina and a son: Traian Vlaic.

TUFENI Commune (Cluj): Gavril DREVE, 54 years old shot on Dambul Negri, remaining the daughter Floarea; Ion DREVE, 22 years old shot with his father, remaining the widow Anuța Dreve, wife.

MĂNASTIRENI Commune: Peter CALO, 38-year-old blacksmith shot, left a son: Peter; Ioan GOIA; Ion NISTOR; Peter GIURGIU, shot at 54, remained a son: Ion; Ion MICHILIE, shot at age 18; Ioan MORAR, butcher, shot at 57, there are two sons; Gavril VASĂR, shot at 6, left two children.

MARISEL Commune (Cluj): Avram COSTEA, burnt on the stake. His wife died shortly. Their little girl Maria remained orphaned on the roads; Dumitru Giurgiu, burned at the stake, dead wife, children on the roads; Ion LAZAR; Francisc MULLER; Gheorghe MARIȘ, burned at the stake, left Silvia and two orphaned children: Vasile and Avram.

ARADA Commune (Cluj): Ioan NEAGU, burned at the stake, remaining wife Rafila and three children: Ion, Vasile and Ana; Peter TODEA, burned at the stake, his wife widowed with daughter Rafila; Nicolae RADAC burned at the stake, left Anuța and the child Gheorghe; NEAG SAVU, burned at the stake, left Ana and the children Nicolae, Iosif, Mariuta; Sântioana STAN; Juiu's Gheorghe NEAG; Ana LAZAR; Dumitru LAZAR; Gavril NEAG of Luchia; Rafila ONET; Dumitru NICOLA; Ana TODEA.

Crimes against Romanians are generalizing. While the desire for liberation under the Hungarian yoke was manifested openly, upon the Romanians broke most extreme oppression. The Hungarian gendarmes were lurking in the flesh on the "white shirt", on November 5th, when the horror train advanced to Belis, and the Hungarian gendarmes acted by killing more peasants in Sanmartin.

In Mihail, the descendants of "St. Stefan" killed 10 peasants, and injured another 28. The priestess and the notary in Filea de Jos returned with 25 Hungarian gendarmes in order to secure a field he exploited, met near the village of Filea de Sus Romanian soldiers returning from the front. He opened fire on them and shot nine men. In the same period and in the same region of the motians, other Hungarian peasants were shot by the Hungarian gendarmes: Chereus (6 deaths), Covasinti (3 deaths), Tăuți other three, Mandruloc others ... everywhere.

Another act of barbarity by the Hungarian detachment that had acted in Belis was at the Poieni railway station near Ciucea. In retreat, after the massacre at Urmanczy Castle, they captured the Romanian sub-lieutenant Tamas in the Poieni station and after beating him terribly, they cut off his ears, forced him to dig a pit at 10 meters from the railroad and after they took out his eyes, they killed him and buried him there. In their bloodshed in the village of Sohodol they killed two priests, Leucutia and Popescu. In those days of horror for the Transylvanian peasants, Iuliu MANIU could not make a wiser decision than: TOTAL DISSOLUTION. And we should not let our forgetfulness drop over the sufferings of our ancestors cause it would be an unforgivable crime."

population by granting privileges, by changing religion, by administrative, legal measures or even by force.

Romanians are not from the same mold, they are hospitable to strangers, they are friendly and refuse hatred and revenge. In 1934, in the Chamber of Deputies sitting, the great poet Octavian Goga showed: "Our people are not xenophobic; the psychology of the Romanian people refuses the hatred on racial and confessional criteria. Our entire past is a proof of tolerance that inspired this people ... Every thread of grass was talking about the secular sufferings of the Romanian people ... Or, there is no movement against the aliens. There was no bloodshed as in 1848, and this people, with their painful memories, with this agitation in their hearts, was of a magnificent generosity in its behavior towards strangers This people seemed to take part - after one thousand years - at the great banquet of its freedom, desiring the good of the whole world, and stretching his arms in a broad reception."

First of all, the Romanians through its legislative bodies have laid down the humanitarian principles of their existence:

- Full freedom for all congregational peoples;
- Equal rights and full confessional autonomy to all religions of the state;
- Every people should be trained, administered, judged in their own language by people elected from their keen;
- Every nation has the right to be represented in the legislative bodies and in the government of the country in proportion to its number.

For example, we show below a table of comparative achievements between 1919 and 1940:

INDUSTRY	The industry founded under the Union with Romania 1919 - 1940							
	Number of enterprises	Capital	Workers	Production value mil. lei	Number of enterprises	Capital	Workers	Production value mil. lei
Food	165	1833	6877	2345	181	1400	5520	2812
Chemicals	34	1551	3695	1089	89	855	8035	1990
Metallurgy	52	5472	32569	5261	110	8679	26723	7730
Textile	47	1121	10626	2499	196	1598	15094	3046
Wood	105	336	7725	639	280	640	10904	1491
Leather	25	307	4810	1281	38	137	3028	635
Paper	18	11920	2704	752	42	138	1953	279
Building materials	81	23789	5417	690	55	468	3498	366
Glassware	2	117	365	23	16	474	3525	403
Electronics	-	-	-	-	20	47	730	187
Ceramics	5	18	190	14	12	84	933	67
TOTAL	534	12429	74978	14593	1039	14520	79943	18966
The growth achieved by the industry of Transylvania					+66%	+54%	+52%	+57%

Extractive industry grew after World War I in Transylvania, coal production, methane, silver doubled in the first seven years, and gold extraction tripled. Absolutely all sectors have doubled or tripled their activities, demonstrating the possibilities of a nation unleashed from national exploitation, which for hundreds of years has been defeated and defamed only

The 1923 Constitution consented to the provisions of the "Peace Treaty" by granting equal, civil and political rights, irrespective of race, religion or language. All the political parties that ruled after 1918 had in their programs the guarantee of the rights established by the Transylvania Conducting Council, so that Hungarians, as well as other nationalities, enjoyed their status as state-protected minorities. Contrary to Hungary's political doctrines that did not grant the right of existence to non-Magyar nationalities, the issue of nationalities in Romania was definitively and fully resolved.

For a share of 7.7% of the country's population, the Hungarians had in all post-EU legislatures, from 6 to 26 representatives in Parliament. Unlike Hungary, which in the mandate after 1918, for 3 million and a half Romanians only had 5 representatives out of the 256 members of the Hungarian Parliament.

The liberation of the people from social and national oppression has led to the development of the business initiative and the country's economy: increased production of goods from 34% to 50% in metallurgy and chemistry, with 100% growth in textile production. If in 1919 there were 1161 industrial enterprises with a production of 4,446,411,000 lei, with a capital of 1,048,468,000 lei with a work occupation of 8,158 workers, in 1937, after the restoration of the country, the number of enterprises reached 1619, with a capital of 16,683,148,000 lei and a number of 129,603 workers.

to be held in control and humiliation. This lesson is equally valid nowadays when other masters pretend to use the riches and vital force of our people.

For the economic development of Romania, of state bank capital and capital of industrial, commercial, insurance and other companies, after the war, a total

capital of 10,441,995,953 lei was used, of which 4,314,329. 880 lei for investments.

Romania's promise, made by its king, accomplished through the agrarian reform, was an act of social justice for those innocents who bore the difficulties of the war or sacrificed themselves for the country, so that the ideal of union would be accomplished.

If, prior to the war in Transylvania, 3,306,345 Romanians possessed 3,448,602 yokes of land, that is to say barely one yoke per person, a year after the war, in 1919 the situation was as follows:

- property from 0 to 10 yokes, from 4,407,889, after reform 7,289,953;
- property from 10 to 100 yokes, from 3,741,700, after the reform 3,741,300;
- property over 100 yokes, from 4,980,985, after the reform 1,889,916.

The expropriation of the great foreign landowners and the ownership of the peasants with the ancestral land was not only an act of historic reparation, but also a mechanism of agricultural production growth, that in a few years reached a share of 35% of the Gross Domestic Product of Transylvania.

2269 km of railway tracks were rebuilt and 1,069 km of new railway were built and the roads were restored, 5182 bridges destroyed by retreating enemies were rebuilt and 2348 new bridges were built in the next 15 years.

Particular achievements in the interwar period can be seen in Transylvania in the health and medical field. It is a breakthrough because there were 1 physician at 5183 inhabitants in cities and 1 doctor at 6770 people in the villages in 1938, compared to 8375 and 11599 in 1919. It was the time when there were 185 doctors in Timișoara and 748 doctors in Brașov. 69 general hospitals and 372 dispensaries were built, and in Cluj there were built the Clinics of the University with all the necessary sections, clinics that over time have gained an international fame. However, in rural areas health care was almost abandoned in the Austro-Hungarian regime, and after the war a number of

deficiencies were reported on the sanitary hygiene level. Still, we can see an improvement in health status, a decrease in morbidity from 26% (1904-1914) to 18% (1935-1940) is a significant index.

On a religious level, the freedom of confessions being guaranteed, the Romanian state sealed a "Concordat" through its government with the Holy See in 1927, granting it a wide autonomy. Roman Catholic, Reformed, and Unitarian bishops sworn oath to King Ferdinand and, as a result, received tremendous benefits, the so-called sacrum heritage, privileges that did not even exist in Hungary. All representatives of minorities found that under the Ministries of Goga, Banu, Lapedatu, Goldiș the state's support for minority beliefs and their culture was continuous and progressive. If the Romanian Orthodox parishes were able to support themselves financially in proportion of 2.5%, the other cults could sustain themselves financially up to 5% Greek-Catholic, 21% Unitarian, 53% Roman Catholic, 83% Lutheran. However, in 1920, minority churches received a budget 20 times the one of the Orthodox Church. In the interwar period 718 churches were built in Transylvania, many of which were cathedrals, and over 987 churches were repaired. Unfortunately, the Romanians remaining within the border of Hungary, for a population of 80,000 people, had only 34 parishes and 9 priests, the Hungarian state did not give any assistance to the Romanian church and its servants.

If in 1907 in Transylvania there were no primary schools with teaching in Romanian, the purpose being that of forced magyarization of the Romanian population, since 1919 in communal, confessional, private schools, the language of teaching was established as that of those who administrated the school. The primary state school would have as language of teaching Romanian, secondary state schools the language of teaching would be the language of the majority of the population, and in the higher education the language of the majority of the inhabitants of the region was to be used.

The situation of education in the interwar period was the following:

School situation in 1918					
Primary state schools	Primary Hungarian schools	Saxon primary schools	Romanian civil schools	Hungarian civil schools	Saxon vicil schools
2392	2588	207	3	109	5
Minorities schools in 1918 - 1930					
Primary and state confesional Hungarian schools	Secondary state and confesional Hungarian schools	Saxon primary schools	Saxon secondary schools	Swabian primary schools	Swabian secondary schools
1362	57	517	43	136	20

In terms of Romanian education in Transylvania in the interwar period, 2,553 new school places were built, 8,962 teachers were enrolled, so 14,455 posts were filled. In Higher Education, a University with 4 faculties was established, an Academy of High Commercial and Industrial Studies, a Music Academy, a Theater Academy, two Theological Academies in Cluj. In Oradea a Law Academy was established, merging in 1934 with the one in Cluj, a Polytechnic School in Timisoara, and seven other Theological Academies (3 united and 4 Orthodox) in the main metropolitan cities. Famous professors were teaching in these faculties, of the 83 university professors, 68 were diplomats who had studied in the most advanced foreign universities. In these faculties there were conducted 3,329 studies in Romanian, 1,837 in foreign languages, and 46 publications. In Cluj, they began elaborating the great Dictionary of the Romanian language, from which four volumes appeared, the Romanian linguistic Atlas with two volumes, and the history and archeology professors were trained at the National History Institute and the History Museum of Transylvania. There was a new science, caving.

All these benefits made in the Kingdom of Romania, in which Transylvania was the heart of this country returned to international life through remarkable achievements, was "rewarded" by the barbarian hordes in 1940, when Transylvania was "stabbed" to death when hatred and chauvinism without the edges exploded. The indescribable cruelties made in Transylvania, where the killings among priests, teachers and intellectuals or even the peasantry related to the land they did not want to leave, materialized in the villages of Ip and Trăsnea where the members of the families of priests Traian Costea and Moldovans were killed mercilessly after the collective murder of all people, 155 in the first and 280 in the second village. The same happened in the commune of Marcu - Sălaj, in the town of Huedin where the deacon Aurel Munteanu and the policeman Gheorghe Nicola were killed in the most terrible tortures. As a punishment, the 6 criminals judged by the Hungarian authorities were

applied sentences of 2 months in prison, and for the 7th the was maximum ruthlessness - 3 months imprisonment. The explanations of the crimes and such sentences are frightening madness. "The intention of killing was not found but only the provocation of curable injuries within 20 days," the perpetrators (killers) "were in a state of mood suitable to explain ... the strong emotion they were ruled and which could cause excesses from the part full of the happiness of liberation and enthusiastic patriotic feelings. " My comment is one: well, it did not hold too much "patriotic happiness and feelings" that it would have killed all the Romanian priests, teachers and intellectuals trapped in the enthusiastic operations.

Transylvania is linked to Muntenia and Moldova as in the biblical example of brick made of earth, water and fire. Transylvania is inseparable, even though the hostility of its fate has made it disputed, writhing, negotiated, sold, betrayed, treated with indifference, or with the passivity of those who say: what do the Transylvanians still need?, confusing them with the whole of Transylvania. Even nowadays we are not doing much better, because Transylvanian patriotism is considered to be nationalism, a feudal atavism in a Europe with barriers of the new migrants.

The history of Transylvania in the First World War and after the war can be characterized as being properly understood by the political leaders of the country, who believed evil is to be paid with good, that the Romanians only have to suffer and they can enjoy only when they are allowed. The foreign heel from the necks of Romanians has never risen, and the revanchists in their madness want a new Ip and Tranznea. Watch out, good Romanians! while you still have the country as a whole. I tell you this as a son who had his parents banished from Cluj at the cession of northern Transylvania, whose grandparents were imprisoned by other unscrupulous Romanians because they were supporters of Maniu, the maker of Great Romania, whose names were changed in civil status registers and on the crosses in the cemetery. Careful!

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