

LAVINIA BETEA, **THE COMRADE. ELENA CEAUȘESCU'S BIOGRAPHY**, Corint Books Publishing House, Bucharest, 2021, 380 p.

Lavinia Betea's book, a 2021 noteworthy publication, is a foray into Elena Ceaușescu's life, the person who played the role of Romania's first lady for about a quarter of a century. It is true that the title of "first lady" may seem to be far-fetched used in relation to Elena Ceaușescu's personality, but it is justified if we take into account the interference she had in the political and decision-making issues of the country, the influence she exerted on her husband, the fact that she was, after all, the general secretary's consort of the Romanian Communist Party, the leader of the Socialist Republic of Romania.

Within 19 chapters, Lavinia Betea observes the path Lenuța from Petrești followed, reaching the highest stage of Romanian politics, a position from which she will lead together with Nicolae Ceaușescu the destinies of Romania (p. 8). The work is based on very important and relevant sources from archives, on interviews conducted by the author with various personalities of the communist period (we mention here Ștefan Andrei, Violeta Andrei, Ion Chițoiu – Elena Ceaușescu's former aide, Ștefan Mutu, Maria Noella Rădulescu, Violeta Năstăsescu) and on a consistent bibliography including special works, periodicals, notes, diaries and memoirs.

The author mentions from the very beginning that the paper joins other works on the same topic, which brings into question the communist regime in Romania, that it is desired to preserve the objectivity of a scientific and historical paper and that the sources are analyzed and used objectively. Such a clarification has been necessary because Mrs. Betea grew up, studied, worked and has been trained, like thousands of other Romanians, during the communist regime, and the decisions of the Ceaușescu couple influenced her life in various ways, some of them totally unwanted (pp. 9–10). The volume does not display a completely chronological approach, starting right with the end of the Ceaușescu era, respectively the moment of the communist regime fall.

The first chapter of the volume, entitled "In the Name of the People" (pp. 15–27), captures the Ceaușescu couple's end, their last days in December 1989, the atmosphere of the simulated process and the execution of the two. This first chapter has a continuity, in a circular form, with the last chapter "Calm down, Nicule, things will be solved in a way ..." (pp. 365–380) which brings back to the forefront the image of the Ceaușescu couple during their last days, the period between December 20th and December 25th. The image of Nicolae and Elena Ceaușescu in the last chapter of the book contrasts with their image in the first chapter. If in the first chapter, the two Ceaușescus appear confident, they are

convinced that the situation will be solved as soon as possible, and Elena Ceaușescu is acid in her expression and confronts her accusers, in the last chapter, the situation changes.

Another face of dictators is revealed, a more human one. They are presented as two old men, sick and frightened, insecure, in humiliating situations. Elena Ceaușescu appears with a tired, aged face, with uncombed hair, being cold, asking about her children's destinies. Between these two chapters, the beginning and the end, the reader is presented with Elena Ceaușescu's life, from her birth to the height of her power.

A life with good and bad happenings, somehow transformed into a legend, compared by the author with Cinderella's fairy tale, but with a tragic ending (p. 8).

Chapter 2, entitled "Lenuța of Briceag" (pp. 28–48), begins with the autobiographical note written by Elena Ceaușescu at the request of the party's verification commission in 1949. From this note, written with spelling mistakes, the date and the place of birth of the future *Comrade* can be found, the situation of the Petrescu family at the time of her birth, details about her primary studies. The first steps in the secrets of a job, the years of apprenticeship, Elena's move to Bucharest, her contact with the communist values, as well as a biography of Nicolae Ceaușescu, are found in chapters 2 and 3, the latter called "The Queen of Work" (pp. 49–63). Chapter 3 also contains the history of the country celebration in the Veseliei Park, on August 13th, 1939, when Elena Petrescu, the future Ceaușescu, became the "Queen of Labor", as well as details on how the communist propaganda would later use this event to create – for the two Ceaușescus – the image of the organizers of the first Labor Day in Romania.

Chapter 4 – "Comrade Ceaușescu's Bride" (pp. 64–82) presents the period, between 1939 and 1944, the first months as a couple for Elena and Nicolae, Nicolae's sentence to 3 years of prison in 1940, what he experienced in prison and the war years, until 23rd of August 1944.

The next two chapters, "Former Outlaws Become Heroes" (pp. 83–104) and "In the Heart of the Spring District" (pp. 105–125) capture the period in Elena Ceaușescu's life, implicitly of Nicolae Ceaușescu's life, from the moment the communists came to power in Romania, until the moment when the Ceaușescu family joins those at the top of the power and moves to the exclusive Bucharest neighborhood – the Spring District. The author offers in the two chapters information about the way of life of the nomenclature, some less known details to the general public, about Elena Ceaușescu's behaviour, who has become an important character, about the family and friendship relations of the two Ceaușescus.

Chapter 7 – "From Primary school to University Studies" (pp. 126–142) – is devoted to clarifying Elena Ceaușescu's professional situation and her level of education.

There is no secret that Elena Ceaușescu's studies, justified with diplomas, were not real. This was the case with many members of the nomenclature, as the author demonstrates (pp. 128–131). However, Elena Ceaușescu's "performances" and ambitions are hard to match.

The following chapters (pp. 143–341) introduce the reader behind the Ceaușescu family's life stage, while presenting aspects of the political, economic and social situation in which Romania found itself, as a parallel between the two worlds so different, the real world of millions of Romanians and the elitist world, reserved only to the elected communists.

The portrait that is drawn for Elena Ceaușescu, within these chapters, is not a flattering one, she appears as a mischievous woman, ready to skirmish, always dissatisfied, with exaggerated requests and pretensions. Envious, gossipy, she cannot completely hide her slumber, even if she is dressed in the aura of power.

Elena Ceaușescu's involvement in politics and leadership matters is largely a source of harm. The testimonies of the collaborators and of those in the circle of close relatives of the family, come to complete the opinions already expressed at the time.

The biography contains unique information about the life of the Ceaușescus, about the culinary preferences of the couple, about the way of spending free time, holidays. The relations between the spouse and her husband and their three children are also highlighted, as well as the friendly relations (sincere or conjuncture ones) with other important families of the time.

Elena Ceaușescu is also caught in more humane poses, as a mother concerned about the situation of her children, as a good mother-in-law (with the mention that she fulfilled this role only with her favorite daughter-in-law, Poliana), as a wife or daughter. However, these hypostases are overshadowed by the general behaviour of the Comrade, which was tough, unpredictable and difficult to manage by those around her. Elena Ceaușescu's biography comes to complete the picture of an era that profoundly changed Romania, the consequences of which can be seen even today. The book is written in a language that makes it suitable for both the general public and the specialists, being useful to those interested in the history of Romanian communism.

The author objectively interprets the sources, presents without bias the realities of the Ceaușescu era and also has ironic remarks on various situations or characters, especially on Elena Ceaușescu. This fact does not change in any way the value of the work, it remains an important one, especially useful for those concerned with the period of communism in Romania, the historical, social and psychological aspects of the Ceaușescu dictatorship.

I consider that Mrs. Lavinia Betea's work is an exceptional one, well documented and the information provided is valuable, the research effort being fully rewarded by the final form of the published volume.

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SILVIU SANA, TIBERIU ALEXANDRU CIORBA, TRAIAN OSTAHIE, **SEMINARUL TINERIMII ROMÂNE UNITE DIN ORADEA. VOL. II: STUDENȚI TEOLOGI (1792–1948). DICȚIONAR BIOGRAFIC**, Editura Mega, Cluj-Napoca, 2021, 381 p.

After 1989, when the Romanian Greek Catholic Church was once again recognized by the state, a style of historiography highlighting the past of the Romanian Greek Catholic Eparchy of Oradea developed in North-Western Romania. Supported by Virgil Bercea, the Bishop of the Greek Catholic Diocese of Oradea, local researchers unearthed valuable information regarding the history of the eparchy. The book presented here provides one such example.

The book, edited by a research group consisting of Silviu Sana, Tiberiu Ciorba and Traian Ostahie, is part of a local history project launched in 2017, under the guidance of Anton Cioba, Rector of the Greek Catholic Theological Seminary in Oradea. It seems a second generation of local historians follows the path established by well-known figures, such as Blaga Mihoc or the late Iudita Călușer.

The book was first presented on the 30th of January 2022, during the festivities celebrating the 230th anniversary of the Greek Catholic Theological Seminary in Oradea. It stands out as a biographical dictionary, sketching the profiles of 1157 theological students who studied at the Greek-Catholic Seminary of Oradea from its foundation in 1792 until 1948. Given that the book deals with the long duration, each author was assigned a time frame to analyze. Thus, the period between 1792–1850 was assigned to Tiberiu Ciorba, 1851–1900 to Silviu Sana, and, finally, 1900–1948 to Traian Ostahie. Despite the efforts of the three researchers, due to the scarcity of the sources, some school years were not examined. However, a vast majority of the school years was assessed.

As for the sources used by the authors, it is worth noting their diverse character, the use of unpublished archival funds, and also the laborious use of church *schematismus*.

Structurally, the volume consists of an introductory study (p. 13–25), accompanied by brief methodological aspects, a chronology of the school years (p. 29–94), and the biographies of the theological students (p. 95–334). Even though the authors propose a two-part structure, the bulk of the book is represented by the biographies.

The introductory study briefly presents the coordinates of the book and also provides some quantitative preliminaries to the biographies of the theological students. The first part of the book presents the higher-educational institutions attended by the theological students in Oradea from 1792 to 1948. As a matter of fact, the chapter *Cronologia anilor școlari (1792–1948)* is a list of theological students of the Greek Catholic Theological Seminary in Oradea and the higher-educational institutions they attended.

The second chapter [*Biografiile studenților teologi*] briefly presents the biographies of 1,157 theological students. The students are sorted alphabetically and each profile is systematically organized: name and surname, date of birth, place of birth, social origins, education, marital status, date and place of ordination, offices held, special mentions, date and place of death, and sources. To avoid redundancy, the dictionary entries are rendered by a rigorous system of abbreviations.

The book also features an index of persons, an index of authors, and an index of cities, counties, countries, and institutions, tools useful to researchers and unspecialized readers interested in certain persons or places alike.

It is unusual that the book presented is actually the second volume in a series of volumes on the Greek Catholic Theological Seminary in Oradea. The situation is uncommon because the second volume precedes the first. At the same time, it would be appropriate that the biographies of the 1,157 students be introduced, complementary to the volume, in a digital manner, for example in a database, which would make the information even more accessible to interested researchers.

To conclude, the work of Tiberiu Ciorba, Silviu Sana, and Traian Ostahie represents a remarkable tool that can be used by researchers with prosopographical concerns interested in the Greek Catholic Diocese of Oradea. It stands out from the local historiographical context and occupies a prominent place, alongside other biographical lists and tools, particularly in the field of the history of education, such as the works of Cornel Sigmirean¹ in the Romanian historiography or the works of László Szögi² in its Hungarian counterpart.

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RUDOLF GRÄF, ED., *MONARHIA HABSBURGICĂ (1848–1918) [THE HABSBURG MONARCHY (1848–1918)], VOL. III: PROBLEMA NAȚIONALĂ [THE NATIONAL ISSUE]*, Editura Academiei Române/Centrul de Studii Transilvane, Cluj-Napoca; Editura Polirom, Iași, 2021, 296 p.

Now in its fourth volume, the six-volume series (as many as will eventually appear in Romanian) entitled *The Habsburg Monarchy (1848–1918)* is a well-planned and well-structured synthesis of the 12 volumes published by the Austrian

¹ Cornel Sigmirean, *Istoria formării intelectualității românești din Transilvania și Banat în epoca modernă. Studenți români la universități din Europa Centrală și de Vest* (Cluj-Napoca: Presa Universitară Clujeană, 2000).

² László Szögi, *Studenți români din Transilvania la universitățile din Europa în secolele XVI–XX* (Târgu-Mureș: Editura Universității Petru Maior, 2011).

Academy of Sciences (through the Commission for the History of the Austro-Hungarian/Habsburg Monarchy), which make up the monumental work *Die Habsburgermonarchie 1848–1918*, coordinated by historians Alois Brusatti, Adam Wandruszka, Peter Urbanitsch, Helmut Rumpler, Ulrike Harmat, and Anatol Schmied-Kowarzik.

Under the careful coordination and supervision of historian Professor Rudolf Gräf and through the rigorous translations/adaptations of distinguished scholars such as Iosif Marin Balog, Loránd Mádly, Raluca Nelepcu, Daniela Stanciu-Păscărița, and Nicolae Teșculă, the Romanian version depicts, like the original edition, the general situation of the Habsburg state (Austro-Hungarian since 1867) in the period between the social and political turmoil of 1848 and the radical geopolitical consequences of the end of the First World War in 1918.

The four volumes of *The Habsburg Monarchy (1848–1918)* examine in particular the following aspects: *Economic Development, Administration and Legal System, Armed Forces* (volume I), *The Peoples of the Empire* (volume II), *The National Issue* (volume III), and *The Confessional Issue* (volume IV). This review will briefly present the third volume, published in 2021.

In terms of structure, volume III, entitled *The National Issue*, includes three studies taken from volume III/1 of *Die Habsburgermonarchie 1848–1918*, entitled *Die Völker des Reiches*, edited by historians Adam Wandruszka and Peter Urbanitsch, and published in 1980 by the Austrian Academy of Sciences. The studies are preceded by an *Editor's Note* by Rudolf Gräf, in which the coordinator of the Romanian series summarizes the contents of the volume and its importance for understanding “the so complicated history of the Habsburg Monarchy.” Until not long ago, many Romanians lived under the Habsburg Monarchy’s rule. Their belonging to the Habsburg state favored the emergence and development of a later tendency to a pro-Western identity. The volume also contains a wealth of information, which Rudolf Gräf claims is intended to enlighten both the interested research community and the general public about the evidence of the concerns and efforts of the authorities in the Habsburg Monarchy to secure and respect the rights and liberties of the peoples in the Empire (by establishing clear laws to this purpose). Rudolf Gräf points out that thanks to these policies, similar to that of today’s principle of the rule of law, the Habsburg/Austro-Hungarian Empire displayed a distinctive form of constitutionalism, unparalleled at the time in any other European empire except the German one (which was not multi-ethnic/multinational).

The first study in this volume belongs to the renowned Austrian historian Erich Zollner (1916–1996), professor at the University of Vienna, member of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, and corresponding member of the Bavarian Academy of Sciences. Entitled in English, *The Periods of Austrian History and Changes in the Meaning of Austria until the End of the Habsburg Monarchy*, the research aims to analyze the main periods in Austrian history, from the earliest

times until the “collapse” of the Habsburg dynasty. However, the author deems it necessary to point out the natural impossibility of this scientific approach, which cannot capture the complete picture of all historical events that took place since the settlement of people in the territory later occupied by the Habsburg Empire. At the same time, Erich Zollner states that he is not investigating the founding myths and fantastic legends, which place the beginnings of Austria in the late antique period, as a so-called *regnum Noricum* (Noricum Province), similar to the origins of the Hungarian statehood that were located in the Province of Pannonia. The author regards the phenomenon of the great migrations of peoples in the early Middle Ages as the triggering factor for the emergence of new states/the state-building process, and hence of the Austrian state. Its core seems to have been the defensive mark established on the Danube by the Frankish Kingdom after the Battle of Augsburg in 955 to defend the eastern flank from Hungarian attacks. The *Marchia Orientalis* was controlled by the House of Babenberg and bore the name established in the Germanic area before the ninth century for the eastern Frankish Kingdom: *Ostarrîchi/Osterrîche* (*Ost-Rîche* = *Ost-Reich* = Eastern Empire). In this part of his study, Erich Zollner undertakes a thorough analysis of the origins of this state’s name in German (Österreich) and Latin (Austria), arguing that in the past, these names essentially referred to nowadays’s Lower Austria. The extension of the House of Babenberg’s control over other territories, including Styria (although it kept its territorial individuality and legislative practices vis-à-vis Austria) and Carniola further south, and the repeated attempts to form a kingdom of Austria within the Holy Roman Empire are the main subject of further analysis in Erich Zollner’s study. The author also examines the role played by the House of Habsburg in taking control of Austria and gradually transforming it into the empire that later eliminated the Ottoman threat to European civilization, receiving the task of defending Western Europe against the new danger posed by Russia.

The second study is by Gerald Stourzh, an Austrian historian and specialist in the period between the eighteenth and twentieth centuries, and the history of political ideas, constitutionalism, and democracy. He is a professor at the Freie Universität Berlin and the University of Vienna. *The Equal Entitlement of the Nationalities as a Constitutional Principle (1848–1918)* aims to present and discuss as concisely and clearly as possible how the Habsburg Monarchy granted certain equal rights and liberties to the fellow nationalities in this vast multi-ethnic/multinational empire. At the same time, the legal path of ideas in favor of granting equal liberties and rights to all peoples in the Monarchy is explained by Gerald Stourzh throughout his study, which takes up most of the pages of the volume under review. The events of 1848 on the territory of the Habsburg Empire and the European continent also marked the beginning of the first demands addressed to the Emperor in Vienna by Czech revolutionaries. They requested the recognition of equal rights for both nationalities (Czechs and Germans),

acknowledged and guaranteed by law, and not just “mere tolerance” for the Czech people. The appearance of the official act, signed by the Emperor, which stipulated the equality of the Czech and German peoples, encouraged the emergence of new demands by the “non-German” nationalities in the context of 1848. The constitutional debates in Frankfurt and the issuing of the *Constitution of the Austrian Empire* (the Pillersdorf Constitution) on April 25, 1848, are relevant in this regard, says Gerald Stourzh. He also points out that the fourth paragraph of the Pillersdorf Constitution ensured the “inviolability of nationality and language” of all peoples under the rule of the Habsburg Monarchy. In the remainder of the study, the author presents the factual situation of the idea of equal rights in the context of imperial politics during the period 1848–1851. Illustrative in this respect is the *Sheet of Imperial Laws for the Kingdoms and Countries Represented in the Imperial Senate*, published in ten languages: German, Italian, Hungarian, Bohemian, Polish, Ruthenian, Slovenian, Serbo-Illyrian with Serbo-Cyrillic characters, Serbo-Illyrian/Croatian with Latin characters, and Romanian (Moldo-Wallachian). The author then addresses the issue of the equality of rights among the nationalities living in the Empire. Although they did not represent a legal subject in the Habsburg Monarchy, they were addressed in Article 19 of the Fundamental Law.

The third and last study in the volume was signed by another distinguished researcher and scholar with Austrian roots and internationally recognized competence in researching the history of the Habsburg Monarchy and its multi-ethnic/multinational specificity. Robert A. Kann (1906–1981) was a professor at Rutgers University (New Jersey), a corresponding Austrian Academy of Sciences member, and an honorary doctor of the University of Salzburg. His work entitled *On the Issue of the Nationalities in the Habsburg Monarchy (1848–1918). A Synthesis* objectively addresses the matters of the nationalities under the “umbrella” of the Habsburg/Austro-Hungarian Monarchy and their relations with the central power or with imperial hegemonic elements. The positioning of this study after that of historian Gerald Stourzh in the volume is not accidental; it is meant to illustrate, through the arguments and information presented, the reasons behind the failure to implement the principle of equality among the nationalities and, hence, the very collapse of the Habsburg Monarchy/Dualist Empire after the end of the First World War. The favorable framework created by the Monarchy for its political and social progress served as a means of emancipation of the nationalities in the Empire, shows Robert A. Kann. He seems almost fascinated by the contiguous peoples (Romanians, Slovenes, Slovaks, Serbs, and Ruthenians) due to their remarkable national progress within the limits set by imperial policies. The author characterizes the “inexorable end” of the Habsburg Monarchy as inevitable in the circumstances of the time. However, Robert A. Kann also states in the last lines of his study that the imminence or the nefariousness of this historical event

does not mean giving up or giving in to this reality, as man is capable of involving himself personally or as a society, to choose whether the historical process will lead to totalitarianism or pluralism.

In conclusion, the third volume of *The Habsburg Monarchy (1848–1918)* represents, like the other volumes included in this editorial project, a remarkable scientific contribution necessary to the Romanian historiography on this subject. It is also a historical and literary reading accessible to the general and non-specialist public, thanks to the precise and easy-to-understand language deliberately adopted by the authors and translators.

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RUDOLF GRÄF, ED., *MONARHIA HABSBURGICĂ (1848–1918)* [THE HABSBURG MONARCHY (1848–1918)], VOL. I: *DEZVOLTAREA ECONOMICĂ, ADMINISTRAȚIA ȘI SISTEMUL JURIDIC, FORȚA ARMATĂ* [ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT; ADMINISTRATION AND JUDICIAL SYSTEM; ARMED FORCES], Editura Academiei Române/Centrul de Studii Transilvane, Cluj-Napoca; Editura Polirom, Iași, 2020, 424 p.

Published in 2020, this work opens a four-volume series on the history of the Habsburg Monarchy. All four volumes published so far represent the result of the effort of Romanian historians to translate some carefully selected texts together with Austrian researchers from those included in the series *Die Habsburgermonarchie 1848–1918*. This endeavor represents the object of an agreement concluded in 2008 between the Austrian Academy of Sciences/the Commission for the Study of the Habsburg Monarchy and Babeş-Bolyai University. The Romanian edition is coordinated and supervised by Professor Rudolf Gräf.

This book comprises seven studies on the economic, administrative, legal, and military life of the Habsburg Empire. Structurally, the work is divided into three major parts: *Economic Development, Administration and Legal System*, and *Armed Forces*. These parts are framed by a foreword by Academician Professor Ioan-Aurel Pop, an editor's note by Professor Rudolf Gräf, a list of contributors, and bibliographical references.

In the introduction, Academician Ioan-Aurel Pop stresses the importance of translating the selected studies. They contain accurate information referring mainly to the Danube Monarchy and the measures influencing the constituent provinces, especially the Romanian ones. Thus, the texts selected for this volume significantly contribute to the knowledge and comprehension of Romania's historical past.

In the editor's note, Professor Rudolf Gräf mentions that a series of studies from three volumes of *Die Habsburgermonarchie 1848–1918* has been selected.

The first part contains three studies from the series' first volume,¹ signed by Nachum Th. Gross, Herbert Matis, and Josef Wysocki. The survey of Nachum Th. Gross opens the section on economics. It focuses on the position of the Habsburg Monarchy in the European and world economy of the early nineteenth century until the end of the Great War. First, the author considers the relative backwardness of the Austrian economy, which was not so visible at the beginning of the period under discussion, but later became more evident despite economic progress. Starting from a series of statistical data highlighted through tables, Nachum Th. Gross examines the factors that contributed to economic growth, like the integration of the Habsburg Monarchy into the world economy. The author compares the Austrian economy especially with the economies of Great Britain, France, and Germany. In this regard, Gross observes a slow integration of the monarchy into the world economy due to the lack of a *genuinely competitive export article* and the inability to rapidly reach the standards in various fields, that the rest of the countries already had.

Herbert Matis' study reviews the main economic policies adopted in the empire. Beginning with a description of the elements that defined the economic policy of neo-absolutism, Herbert Matis then lists the characteristics of economic liberalism. In the author's opinion, neo-absolutism represented only a *brief episode in Austria's economic history*, that is, the period of economic dualism with Hungary, based on the *Law on the Joint Affairs of All Countries of the Monarchy*, issued in 1867, and the *Hungarian Law of Dualism*. Finally, Herbert Matis focuses on the period marked by the state's interventionist and collectivist position. The author also dedicates a few pages to the most *significant representatives of economic interests* – the professional organizations. The last part of the study analyzes the so-called war economy and the difficulties encountered by the monarchy following the outbreak of the First World War.

The last study included in the first part, written by Josef Wysocki, completes the ones already mentioned and is dedicated, as its title shows, to the empire's financial policy. After presenting general data, the author turns to the particulars since the state did not have a unitary structure. It consisted of Länder and Communes with essential responsibilities in the economic sector, especially after the Austro-Hungarian Compromise of 1867. However, the problem regarding the *joint affairs* of the Austrian and Hungarian parts of the empire persisted, which is discussed at length by the author of this study. Josef Wysocki also deals with issues such as the emergence of modern budgeting as a result of political developments,

¹ Alois Brusatti, Adam Wandruszka and Peter Urbanitsch, eds., *Die Habsburgermonarchie 1848–1918*, vol. 1, *Wirtschaftliche Entwicklung* (Vienna: Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften, 1973).

the formation of a balanced budget, and the occurrence of state debt in the second half of the nineteenth century, following the monarchy's involvement in various wars (from 1849 until the defeat in 1866), which has led to significant expenditure and the establishment of the so-called period of *economic deficit*. In the end, Josef Wysocki addresses the monarchy's expenditure and income issues. The expenditure policy was characterized by an increase in state expenditure in relation to revenue, which was a particularity of the monarchy. The author best exemplifies this in a series of appendices on the issue of military expenditure, the railways (following their nationalization), and *traditional tasks*, the costs of which have steadily escalated. The revenue issue is analyzed from the perspective of monopoly revenues and taxes, customs policies, and the taxation system.

The second part of the work, *Administration and Legal System*, consists of two studies from volume II of *Die Habsburgermonarchie 1848–1918*.² These are Robert A. Kann's study on the supranational state in the Habsburg Monarchy and a survey by Béla Sarlós about the Hungarian judicial system. Robert A. Kann begins his study with concept clarifications regarding the terms *national*, *supranational*, *anational*, and *international*. The author then lists the elements that form the supranational state and traces its development in the Habsburg Monarchy. In doing so, Kann suggests the following periodization: 1526 until the coronation of Maria Theresa – unification and centralization –; the reign of Maria Theresa until the death of Emperor Joseph II, marked by the *humanization of the state's objective* through a set of reforms and the linguistic Germanization at the institutional level; the reign of Leopold II until the Revolution of 1848, characterized by the interruption of the reforms initiated by the predecessors and the so-called *Metternich system*, which denied nationalities; and the period between 1848 and 1918. Great attention is paid to the theories of the supranational state as viewed by Joseph von Eötvös, Karl Renner, Konstantin Frantz, Otto Bauer, and Ignaz Seipel, the policies that have regulated over time the relations between the component nations of the empire, and the supranational issues in the dualist system. In the end, Robert A. Kann shows how the supranational state appears in the historical imaginary.

The study of Béla Sarlós provides readers with some historical perspective on the legal regulations of the Hungarian part of the monarchy. Without a constitution, the Hungarian administration functioned based on laws and ordinances that changed frequently. We also learn that the Hungarian governmental institutions were accountable to the central imperial authorities. Thus, the author speaks about the lacking independent character of the entities pertaining to the legislative and executive powers, even in the field of the military. Therefore, Béla Sarlós analyzes the essential moments surrounding the *issue of power-sharing* between 1848 and

² Adam Wandruszka and Peter Urbanitsch, eds., *Die Habsburgermonarchie 1848–1918*, vol. 2, *Verwaltung und Rechtswesen* (Vienna: Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, 1975).

1867: the Declaration of Independence of April 14, 1849, the Diploma of October 1860, the *Dualist Pact* of 1867, and the issues of the constitutional law, the courts, and administrative laws.

In the last part of the work, dedicated to the armed forces, the studies of Johann Christoph Allmayer-Beck and Tibor Papp stand out. Both are included in the fifth volume of the mentioned series³ and refer to aspects of the military field. More specifically, Johann Christoph Allmayer-Beck examines the role of the Imperial-Royal Landwehr, while Tibor Papp analyzes the establishment and development of the *Honvéd*, the Hungarian Territorial Army. Given the broad scope of the first study, that is, the image and role of Franz Joseph in the eyes of the army, the changes that came about in the military after Franz Joseph acceded to the throne, the part played by the defeat in the Battle of Sadowa (Königgrätz), the army in the context of national and social tensions and its multinational and supranational character are just some of the elements that are found in Johann Christoph Allmayer-Beck's study.

Tibor Papp's contribution to the formation and development of the *Honvéd* Royal Territorial Army/Militia completes the last aspect mentioned above. Starting from its foundation, with the Buda conference of April 18–29, 1868, as the decisive moment, the author refers to establishing the Territorial Army's governing bodies at both central and regional levels. In his study, Tibor Papp also mentions various aspects such as the means of recruitment, the arming of the Hungarian *Honvéd* troops, the uniforms, training, and education according to military ranks (recruits, non-commissioned officers, and officers), the difficulties and poor conditions in the barracks, medical services, justice, and religious assistance, because the *religious education of soldiers was a legally imposed task*. The author concludes his study with some data on the Hungarian reserve army, introduced in 1886 due to the inefficient volunteer system.

In conclusion, as we have seen so far, this volume provides an overview of the economy, administration, and military of the Habsburg Monarchy from the perspective of some Austrian and Hungarian authors. Thus, each study contributes to a better comprehension of the history of the Danube Monarchy.

Since German is not an accessible language to the general public, the importance of this book lies primarily in the translation of historically significant studies into Romanian.

This volume is also important because, as Academician Ioan-Aurel Pop states, it introduces a series of clarifications, including into Romanian history, and eliminates some stereotypes that are so widespread nowadays. Consequently, this book suggests a different kind of history that draws the general public's attention to less known or researched aspects.

³ Adam Wandruszka and Peter Urbanitsch, eds., *Die Habsburgermonarchie 1848–1918*, vol. 5, *Die bewaffnete Macht* (Vienna: Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, 1987).

Published in an exceptional graphic style, with a subject matter that is highly necessary for understanding the past of the Habsburg Monarchy, the volume *Economic Development; Administration and Judicial System; Armed Forces* remains a reference work in scholarly literature.

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SEPTIMIU MOGA, SISTEMUL BANCAR CLUJEAN DE LA MAREA UNIRE LA MAREA CRIZĂ ECONOMICĂ. STUDII DE CAZ: BĂNCILE ROMÂNEȘTI DIN CLUJ, Cluj-Napoca, Casa Cărții De Știință, 2022, 721 p., ISBN: 978-606-17-1962-4.

La problématique économique a retenu également l'attention de monsieur Septimiu Moga, plus précisément le système bancaire de Cluj, depuis 1918 et jusqu'à la Grande crise économique, sujet qui a peu retenu jusqu'à lors l'attention de chercheurs. En s'appuyant sur de sources documentaires variées, le volume est très bien documenté avec de nombreux chapitres et sous-chapitres ; tout au début a été évoqué la situation économique et politique de la fin du XIX^e siècle et le début du XX^e. L'auteur présente et analyse l'évolution du système bancaire d'Autriche-Hongrie, de Royaume de Roumanie et de la ville de Cluj. Par la suite, le volume poursuit avec l'analyse de l'impact du déclenchement de la Première Guerre Mondiale et de l'entrée de la Roumanie en guerre contre l'Autriche-Hongrie, sur l'activité de banques de Cluj, mais pas seulement.

La fin de la Première Guerre, fin 1918, l'éclatement de l'Autriche-Hongrie et l'Union de la Transylvanie avec le Royaume de Roumanie, sont des événements qui ont eu beaucoup d'impact sur l'activité de banques de Cluj. Avant tout le système bancaire de Cluj a dû intégrer les normes et la législation de l'état roumain. C'était une période unique dans l'histoire contemporaine de la Roumanie, une époque durant laquelle les autorités roumaines ont dû faire face à des nombreux défis de nature économique, politique, législative, sociale, culturelle etc. Toutes ces avancées ont été mises à rude épreuve par la grande crise économique, car le système bancaire roumain a dû relever de nouveaux défis. Util et très intéressant nous a paru le chapitre dédié à l'unification monétaire. L'auteur va se concentrer par la suite sur l'activité de banques de Cluj. Le lecteur trouvera de détails inédits concernant le fonctionnement, la collaboration interbancaire, l'implication du politique et de politiciens dans l'activité bancaire, le type de clients, l'impact de la législation sur l'activité des institutions bancaires, le positionnement de la banque centrale (Banque Nationale de Roumanie – BNR). Un

chapitre exhaustif a été dédié à la Banque Agricole, banque qui a joué un rôle majeur dans le système économique de la Roumanie d'entre-deux-guerres, car cette banque a joué un rôle central dans le financement de la réforme agricole en Transylvanie. Mis à part la Banque Agricole, dans d'autres chapitres, sont évoqués la Banque Centrale pour Industrie et commerce de Cluj, la Banque *L'Econom*, la Banque *Vatra*, banques qui ont eu un rôle important en Transylvanie, même si elles n'ont pas eu la force et l'influence de la Banque Agricole. A la fin, Septimiu Moga analyse en détail l'impact de la grande crise économique sur le banques roumaines.

Mis à part les aspects strictement économiques, financiers et politiques l'auteur évoque de nombreux noms de personnalités qui ont eu un place centrale dans le processus législatif concernant le système bancaire où bien des personnalités qui ont eu un rôle important dans l'activité de banques évoquées. Des dizaines de noms sont cités, certains ayant eu également une résonance y compris nationale pas seulement locale. Parmi ces noms : Ion L. Lapedatu, Aurel Vlad, Victor Bontescu, Alexandru Marghiloman, Aristide Blanc, Vasile Vlaicu, Octavian Goga, Vasile Osvadă, Ion Fiala, Dominic Rațiu etc. Même si le sujet du volume analysé est plutôt un sujet d'histoire locale, il est remarquable d'avoir pu constater qu'il fait une analyse du système bancaire de Cluj en étroite connexion avec le système bancaire national et central-européen car à l'époque, comme aujourd'hui, les systèmes bancaires étaient étroitement interconnectés.

Le volume s'achève avec les conclusions de l'auteur et la liste bibliographique.

Nous avons évoqué dans notre modeste commentaire uniquement quelques éléments qui nous ont paru les plus significatifs, mais le lecteur trouvera certainement d'autres éléments intéressants et surtout inédits. C'est un volume réussi, bien documenté, qui fait référence à une époque importante de l'histoire politique et économique de la ville de Cluj et de la Roumanie, volume qui apporte sa pierre à l'édifice dédié à cette problématique. C'est dans ce cadre que nous saluons l'initiative de monsieur Septimiu Moga et de la maison d'édition *Casa Cărții De Știință* de publier ce volume remarquable par la thématique abordé, les références bibliographiques et le langage utilisé. Même si, le livre s'adressé en premier lieu à ceux qui étudient l'Histoire de la Roumanie et celle du système bancaire roumain nous le recommandons aussi au grand public passionné de l'histoire, soucieux de connaître le mode de fonctionnement du système bancaire roumain et en particulier celui de Cluj lors d'une période complexe et difficile à la fois sur le plan interne qu'international.

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