



COSTEL COROBAN

THE HISTORY OF ROMANIA

Manual for Secondary Education

Constanța, 2013

CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL CONSTANȚA
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CONSTANȚA,
2013

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Dear student,

Welcome to the History of Romania course!

This manual is intended to help you succeed in learning the basics of the History of Romania. It follows the curriculum provided by the Romanian Ministry of Education and each lesson is divided into several sections in order to make studying easier:

- **Objectives** This is what you should be able to do after studying the lesson.
- **Information** This is the actual lesson.
- **Essential** These are the main ideas that you should remember about the lesson.
- **Vocabulary** Complicated historical words are explained here.
- **To know more...** Here you will find out about other sources (movies, books, shows).
- **Applications** Here you will find possible exam questions about the lesson.

How to study for the History of Romania?

Begin your study by first looking at the **Objectives** and **Vocabulary** sections. This way you will know what are you supposed to know after studying the lesson and you will also learn about any unknown word. Then, read the **Information** a couple of times. Writing a summary or drawing a diagram summarizing the **Information** may help you a lot. Then, go on to the **Applications** section. In order to consolidate your knowledge, try to answer as many questions as possible. Often, exam questions will be taken straight from the **Applications** section, so solving them will prove very useful. Finally, in order to perfect your knowledge, visit the **To know more...** section.

Don't forget to enjoy yourself! As you will learn, Romanian History includes many humorous, interesting or at least witty situations.

Good luck!

You will find a quick pronunciation guide for Romanian below:

A, a	- a as in father
Ă, ă	- a as in around
Â, â	- i as in girl (see Î)
E, e	- e as in let
I, i	- i as in machine
Î, î	- i as in girl
O, o	- o as in note; also o as in gone
U, u	- u as in duke

C, c	- c as in cello (ch) when before E or I, otherwise c as in cat
Ch, ch	- ch as in chaos (k)
G, g	- g as in germ (j) when before E or I, otherwise g as in go
Gh, gh	- gh as in ghost (g)
J, j	- z as in azure (zh)
Ș, ș	- s as in sugar
Ț, ț	- tz as in quartz (ts)

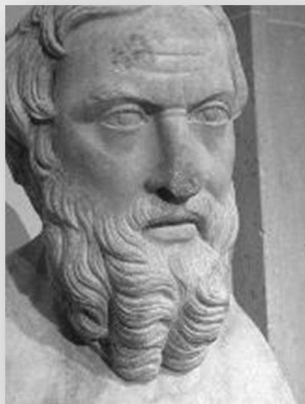
Ci, ci	- chi as in chief
Ce, ce	- che as in chess
Chi, chi	- chi as in Chianti
Ghe, ghe	- ghe as in ghetto
Ghi, ghi	- gee as in geese
Ge, ge	- ge as in genesis
Gi, gi	- gi as in giraff

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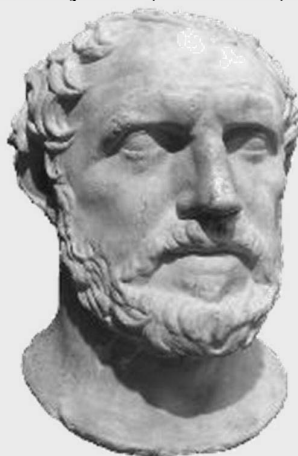
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Lesson 1. INTRODUCTION

Herodotus (484-425 BC)



Thucydides (460-395 BC)



Dionysius Exiguus (470-544 AD)



Objectives

- ❖ To know what History is;
- ❖ To distinguish between AD (CE) or BC (BCE) in time measuring;
- ❖ To be able to use terms such as decade, century, millennium;

Information

History is the science that studies the evolution of human society ever since the first recorded traces of human activity until the present day. The word itself comes from the Ancient Greek word *ιστορία* meaning "inquiry, knowledge obtained by investigation".

The first historians were the Ancient Greeks. Herodotus is considered to be the father of History because he wrote "Histories". Another prominent historian in Ancient Greece was Thucydides. He wrote about the Peloponnesian War (the conflict between Athens and Sparta).

Since History deals with the past, one very important part of the science of History is chronology, or time measuring. For a successful historian, it is very important to know certain aspects of time keeping.

In Western civilization the reformed Gregorian calendar is used. Years are numbered in relation to the birth of Jesus Christ which is dated year 1 AD (Anno Domini = year of the Lord). Events taking place before that moment are dated BC (Before Christ). For example, Rome was founded in 753 BC, that is, 753 years before Christ.

In order to avoid religious references, we can also use CE (Common Era) instead of AD, and BCE (Before the Common Era) instead of BC.

Historians use other chronological terms as well: a period of ten years is called a decade, a period of 100 years is called a century, while a period of 1000 years is called a millennium. Roman numerals are usually used when referring to centuries (e.g. the XVIth century denotes the period from 1500 to 1599; the 2nd decade of the XVIIIth century denotes the period from 1710 to 1719).

Essential

- ❖ History studies the evolution of human society;
- ❖ The father of History is Herodotus;
- ❖ The calendar that we use begins in year 1 AD.
- ❖ Events before year 1 AD are dated BC (like negative numbers in math, 753 BC took place before 510 BC);
- ❖ AD stands for Anno Domini, BC stands for Before Christ;

Examples of ancient calendars:

Mesopotamian



Roman



Ancient Egyptian



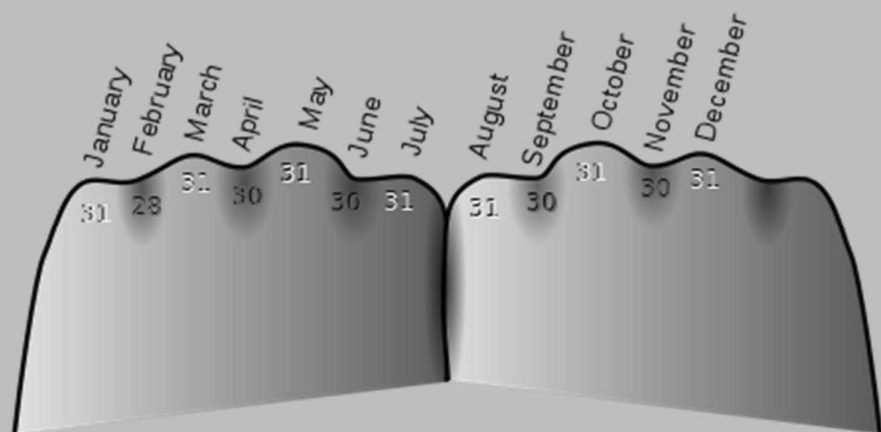
- ❖ We can use CE to replace AD, and BCE to replace BC;
- ❖ Decade = 10 years, century = 100 years, millennium = 1000 years;
- ❖ E.g. the 4th decade of the XIIth century translates as the period 1130-1139.

Vocabulary

- ∞ **decade** = a period of ten years;
- ∞ **century** = a period of one hundred years;
- ∞ **millennium** = a period of one thousand years;
- ∞ **chronology** = the science of time measuring, also, the arrangement of events or dates in the order of their occurrence;
- ∞ **Roman numerals** = any of the letters representing numbers in the Roman numerical system: I = 1, V = 5, X = 10, L = 50, C = 100, D = 500, M = 1,000. In this system a letter placed after another of greater value adds (thus XVI or xvi is 16), whereas a letter placed before another of greater value subtracts (thus XC is 90).
- ∞ **Gregorian calendar** = the calendar introduced in 1582 by Pope Gregory XIII, as a modification of the previous Julian calendar. To bring the calendar back into line with the solar year, 10 days were suppressed. Dates using the new calendar were designated 'New Style'.

To know more...

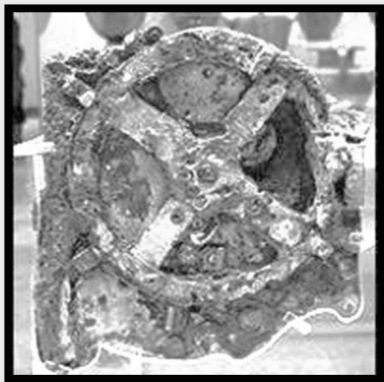
You can easily use your knuckles to always remember the length of the months in the Gregorian calendar:



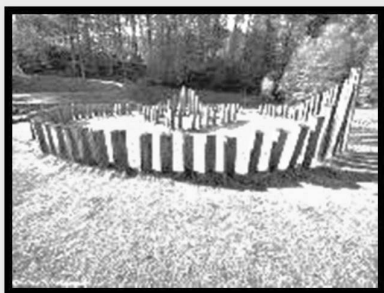
Aztec



Ancient Greek



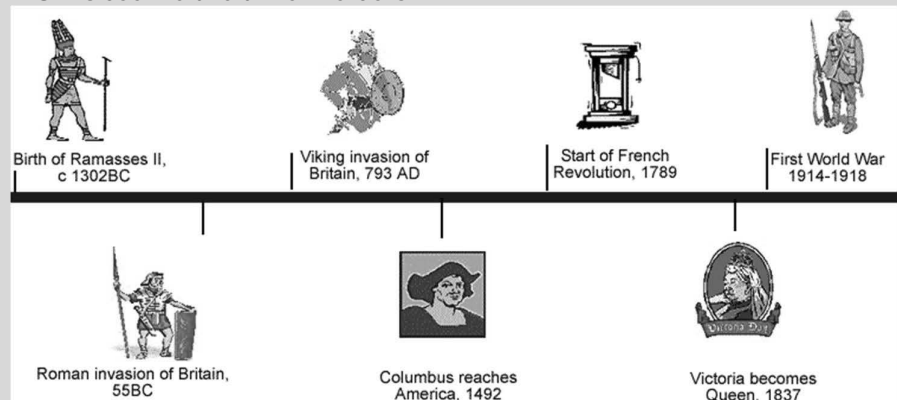
Dacian



Applications

1. Define the following terms: History, decade, century, and millennium.
2. The following time periods correspond to which years?
 - the IInd century;
 - the Vth century BC;
 - the Xth century BC;
 - the XIth century AD;
 - the first decade of the XXth century;
 - the 8th decade of the IXth century BC;
 - the last decade of the XVIIth century.

3. Observe the timeline below:



- a) Mention two BC dated events in the timeline.
- b) Mention two AD dated events in the timeline.
- c) Which took place first, the French Revolution or the Roman invasion of Britain?
- d) Which took place first, Columbus's discovery of America or the Viking invasions of Britain?
- e) Which is the most recent event in the timeline?

4. Read the text below and answer the text based questions:

"In History it is advisable to refer to the following periods: Prehistory (approximately until 3,000 BC), Antiquity (until the Vth century AD), Middle Ages (until the XVth century), Early Modern Age (until the XVIIIth century), and the Modern Age (until present)."

- a) During which historical period do we live?
- b) The Xth century is part of which historical period?
- c) Look up the year of any event in Romanian history and mention in what historical period it is included.

Lesson 2. PREHISTORIC CIVILIZATIONS

Early Paleolithic stone tools (Spain):



Pottery, Petrești culture (Sibiu):



Cucuteni pottery:



Objectives

- to know what Prehistory is;
- to distinguish the stages of Prehistory;
- to identify archaeological cultures and vestiges from the territory of Romania.

Information

Prehistory is the period of history before the invention of writing. Because there are no written sources, archaeologists name their findings **cultures** provided they come from the same area, they are dated around the same period and they show common characteristics.

The **Paleolithic** (Old Stone Age) is the first period of prehistory, beginning about 1 million years ago on the territory of Romania. **Pebble cultures** are specific to this period, when hominids used to hunt and gather. They also learned how to use fire.

The Mesolithic (Middle Stone Age) is the period after the Paleolithic. This is when men started domesticating the first animals and also invented more "complex" stone and bone tools.

The **Neolithic** (New Stone Age) starts with the 7th millennium on the territory of Romania. It is the first "revolution" in history: people found settlements, they begin plating the fields and growing domesticated animals. Complex stone and bone tools are invented, the first clothes are weaved and the first pots and bowls are created.

The end of this period is called the Chalcolithic (Copper and Stone Age). It lasts between 4500-2000 BC on the territory of Romania. The most develop cultures of this period were **Petrești** in Transylvania, **Gumelnița** in Wallachia, **Cucuteni** in Moldova and **Hamangia** in Dobrogea.



The Thinker and His Wife, Cernavodă, Hamangia culture

Venus, Gumelnița culture:



Monteoru pottery:



Periam-Pecica pottery model:



During this period the territory of Romania went through **Indo-Europeanization**. Local populations were conquered by nomadic Indo-European invaders. The **Bronze Age** (2,000-1,200 BC) does not rise to the accomplishments of the previous period. The main Bronze Age discoveries have been found in Monteoru (Wallachia), Periam-Pecica (Banat), Otomani (Crișana) and Sighișoara (Transylvania).

Finally, the **Iron Age** is divided between its first period, **Hallstatt** (1,200-300 BC), and the second Iron Age, **La Tène**. This is when the North Thracian tribes on the territory of Romania begin to be called Getae, Dacians, or Geto-Dacians. Many Iron Age findings belong to the Basarabi culture (Oltenia).

Essential

- ❖ Prehistory deals with findings before the invention of writing;
- ❖ The important periods of Prehistory are: the Paleolithic, Neolithic, Chalcolithic, and the Iron Age;
- ❖ The most important prehistoric cultures of Romania are: Cucuteni, Petrești, Gumelnița, Hamangia, and Basarabi.

Vocabulary

- ⌘ **Archaeological culture** = a recurring assemblage of artifacts from a specific time and place, which are thought to constitute the material culture remains of a particular past human society.
- ⌘ **Pebble culture** = the most ancient archaeological culture; marks the beginning of the Old Stone Age. Belongs to the Lower Pleistocene epoch, 1.8 million to 600,000 years ago.
- ⌘ **Hominid** = any of the two-legged primates, extinct or living, including man and including all species of the genera Homo and Australopithecus.

To know more...

Visit the local History Museum to find out about the prehistoric cultures in the area where you live.

If you understand Romanian you could watch the "Dacia Preistorica" documentary on YouTube. Otherwise, you could watch the movie "10,000 BC" to get an image of life during the Paleolithic (don't forget to ask your parents first!).

Applications

1. Define Prehistory and archaeological culture.
2. During which age did people start using fire?
3. How did people obtain food in the Paleolithic?



4. Which are the developments of the Neolithic revolution?
5. Mention two Chalcolithic cultures from Romania.
6. What is Indo-Europeanization?
7. Which are the two periods of the Iron Age?
8. Archaeological findings in Monteoru belong to which prehistoric age?
9. Write a 150 word essay about Prehistory in Romania. Mention the prehistoric periods and local archaeological cultures.

Late Neolithic cultures in the Balkans



Tărtăria tablets



The Council of the Goddesses (Cucuteni)



The extent of the Cucuteni-Tripillian culture

Lesson 3. KINGSHIP AND RELIGION

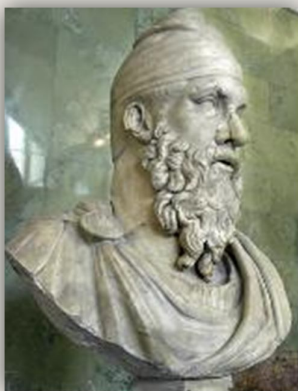
Statue of Burebista (Orăștie)



Decebalus



Dacian man



Objectives

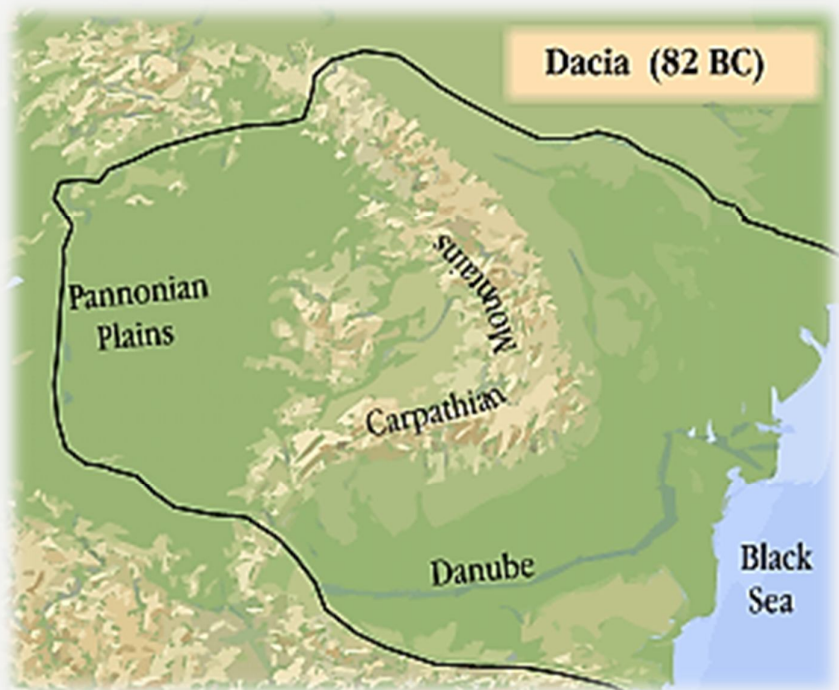
- to identify the leaders of the Kingdom of Dacia;
- to appreciate the importance of Burebista and Decebalus;
- to discern the role of religion in the Dacian society;

Information

The ancient people living on today's territory of Romania were related to the Thracians and they used to be called **Dacians** by the Romans or **Getae** by the Greeks.

Among the first leaders or kings of the Geto-Dacians we can include **Dromichetes**, **Oroles**, and **Rubobostes**. Kings were highly respected in the Dacian society and would be served by nobles (called **tarabostes** or **pileati**) and commoners (called **comati**).

King Burebista (82-44 BC) unified Dacia for the first time through war and diplomacy. He was served by Great Priest **Deceneu**, who was the proposer of many reforms. For example, it is said that all vines were burned down so that people could no longer drink too much wine.



The borders of Dacia extended far beyond the present borders of Romania, into Central Europe and the Balkan Peninsula. The capital of Dacia, called **Sarmizegetusa**, was situated in the Orăștie Mountains of

Zalmoxis (sketch after tomb art):

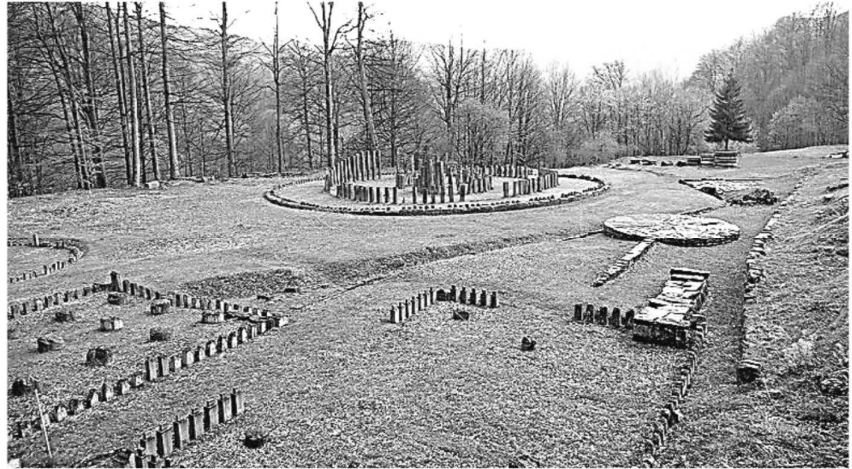


Dacian Rider God



Transylvania. After Burebista other kings followed: Deceneu, Comosicus, Coryllus-Scorilo, and Duras.

During King Duras's reign, Dacia became a threat for the Roman Empire. Old King Duras stepped down from the throne and offered it to his nephew, **Decebalus**. The Dacians are able to defeat the Romans, for now, and furthermore they are able to sign a very advantageous treaty with Emperor Domitian. Decebalus took advantage of the ceasefire and reinforced his fortresses in the Orăștie Mountains: Costești, Blidaru, Piatra Roșie, Bănița, and Căpâlna.



Sarmizegetusa Regia

The religion of the Dacians was polytheistic (they worshipped different gods). The main god was **Zalmoxis**, associated with heaven. Other gods were Gebeleizis, who controlled thunder, Bendis, the goddess of the moon, and Derzelas, the god of the underworld.

The Dacians called Kogaionon their holy mountain and their priests were renowned astronomers and doctors. They would cry at births and celebrate funerals. Ritual sacrifice was also practiced on some occasions. When there was a storm the Dacians would shoot arrows towards the sky to pacify the gods.

Essential

- ❖ The distant ancestors of the Romanians are the Geto-Dacians;
- ❖ Burebista unified all the Dacians and Decebalus was a strong king of the Dacians;
- ❖ The capital of Dacia was Sarmizegetusa;
- ❖ The main god of the Dacians was Zamolxis, the god of heavens.

Vocabulary

Dacian helm (Peretu)



Dacian Falx



- ⌘ **Thracians** = a group of Indo-European tribes inhabiting areas in Southeastern Europe;
- ⌘ **astronomer** = an expert in astronomy; a scientific observer of the celestial bodies (planets, stars, comets);
- ⌘ **polytheistic** = the worship of or belief in more than one god;
- ⌘ **human sacrifice** = the act of killing one or more human beings as part of a religious ritual.

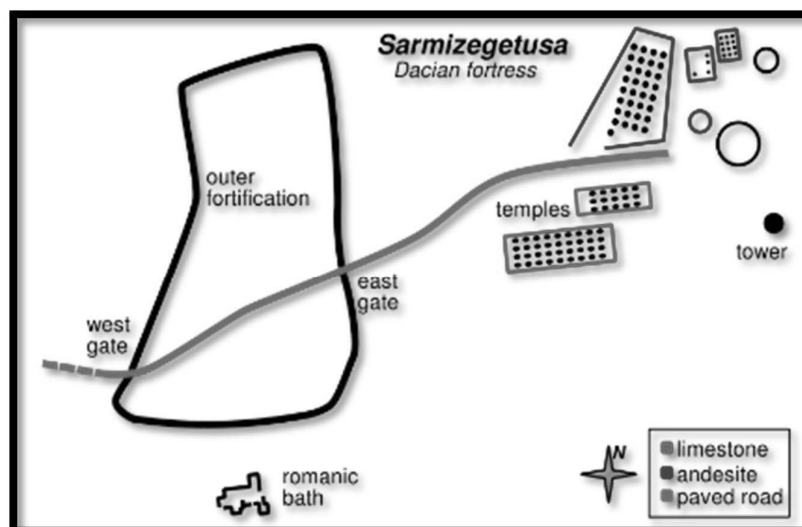
To know more...

There are many sources that could help you learn more about the Dacians. A search for "Dacia documentary" on any search engine will bring up many results. A very good and funny introduction would be the "Dacians documentary" on dailymotion.com/ro.

Applications

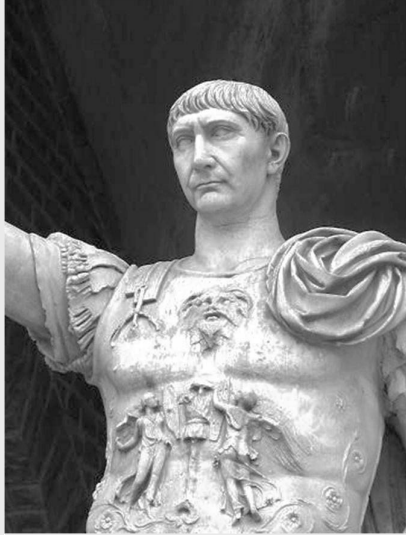
1. Mention two rulers of Dacia.
2. Who unified Dacia for the first time?
3. How far did Burebista's kingdom extend?
4. What was the relation between Duras and Decebalus?
5. Where was the capital of Dacia?
6. Mention one fortress around the Dacian capital.
7. Was the Dacian religion monotheistic or polytheistic?
8. Mention two Dacian gods and their mastery.
9. Write a 100-150 word essay about kingship and religion in Dacia. Mention who were the rulers of the Dacians and describe the Dacian religion and society.

Plan of the ancient capital



Lesson 4. THE GETO-DACIANS AND THE ROMANS

Emperor Marcu Ulpus Trajanus (98-117)



Trajan on a denarius



Dacian Draco Bearer



Objectives

- to understand the causes and effects of the Daco-Roman wars;
- to tell when the Daco-Roman wars took place;
- to know what the Romanization process is.

Information

Around the end of the first century AD, Trajan became Emperor of Rome. He starts preparing for war against Dacia for several reasons (**causes**): to wipe out the shame of Domitian's defeat, to obtain the riches of Dacia (gold, salt), and to assure the security of the Empire's Danube border.

The **first Daco-Roman war** took place between **101-102 AD**. Emperor Trajan crossed over the Danube at Lederata while a second Roman army crossed through Drobeta. The Romans defeated the Dacians at Tapae, but the Dacians were not crushed.

Decebalus, together with his allies, the Burs and Sarmatians, planned to go around the Roman army, through Dobrogea, and to attack the rear of Trajan's invading force (Moesian Diversion). The Emperor found out about this plan and met the Dacian armies in Dobrogea. After winning the battle he ordered the building of **Tropaeum Traiani** (today, Adamclisi). Losing all hope, Decebalus sued for peace, which came with heavy terms for him.

The **second Daco-Roman war** took place between **105-106 AD**. This time, Trajan had ordered the building of a stone bridge over the Danube at Drobeta. The Roman legions quickly crossed it and laid siege to Sarmizegetusa. Decebalus had to flee. He eventually killed himself in order to avoid being captured.

The main effect of the Daco-Roman wars was the **Romanization** of Dacia and its turning into a Roman **province**. Gradually, through this process, all the aspects of life in Dacia were changed, until the Dacians started speaking and using the Latin language. The Romanization process was helped by the arrival of:

- the Roman law;
- the Roman art;
- the Roman religion;
- the Roman veterans;
- the Roman administration;
- Urbanization;
- the Roman colonists.

Tropaeum Traiani



Trajan's column



Essential

- ❖ Trajan attacked Dacia for glory, wealth and for the security of the Roman Empire;
- ❖ The Daco-Roman wars took place in 101-102 AD and 105-106 AD;
- ❖ The main consequence of the Daco-Roman wars was the Romanization of Dacia.

Vocabulary

- ∞ **Roman legion** = a division of the Roman army, usually comprising 3000 to 6000 soldiers;
- ∞ **Romanization** = to make Roman in character, allegiance, style;
- ∞ **Urbanization** = the act or fact of urbanizing, or taking on the characteristics of a Roman city, with viaducts, temples, fora;
- ∞ **Burs and Sarmatians** = tribes allied to the Dacians;
- ∞ **siege** = the act or process of surrounding and attacking a fortified place in such a way as to isolate it from help and supplies, for the purpose of lessening the resistance of the defenders and thereby making capture possible;
- ∞ **province** = the largest territorial and administrative unit of the empire's territorial possessions outside of Italy.

To know more...

A very interesting source about the Daco-Roman wars is the "Roman conquest of Dacia" documentary that may be found on YouTube. If you prefer classic movies you could watch the "Dacii" (1967) movie directed by Sergiu Nicolaescu. English subtitled versions are available on the internet.

Applications

1. Which Roman Emperor invaded Dacia?
2. For what reasons did the Romans invade Dacia?
3. When did the first Daco-Roman war take place?
4. What happened during the first Daco-Roman war?
5. What was the Moesian diversion?
6. When did the second Daco-Roman war take place?
7. What happened during the second Daco-Roman war?
8. How did Decebalus die?
9. What is Romanization?
10. Mention the factors of the Romanization process.
11. Write a 100-150 word essay about the Daco-Roman wars. Mention its causes, the two Daco-Roman wars, and detail about its consequences.

Roman Dacia (106-271 AD)



Roman turtle formation on Trajan's column

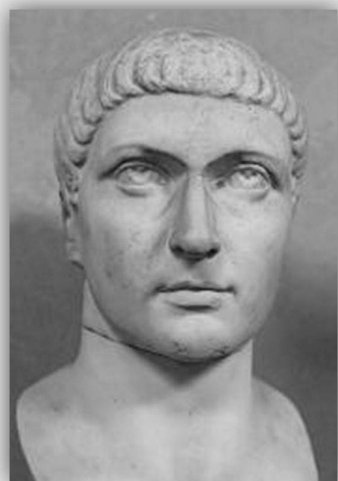


Lesson 5. LATINITY AND CHRISTIANITY

Biertan Donarium



Emperor Constantine the Great
(306-337)



Roman rush candle



Objectives

- to discern the role of Christianity in the Romanization of Dacia;
- to identify early Christian inscriptions from Dacia;
- to mention religious words of Latin origin.

Information

The spread of **Christianity in Latin** throughout Dobrogea and the rest of the territory of present Romania is proof of the strong links between Dacia and the rest of the Roman Empire.

The massive Christianization of the Daco-Romans took place during the 4th and 5th centuries. The role of Christianity as a factor of Romanization is proved by religious words in the Romanian language. For example, *biserică* (church) derives from the Latin word *basilica*. Similarly, *Dumnezeu* (God) comes from *Domine Deus*, *cruce* (cross) from *crux*, *înger* (angel) from *angelus* and *Duminică* (Sunday) from *Dies Dominica*.

Densuș basilica, one of the oldest in Romania (XIIIth cen.)



The spread of Christianity in Latin is also proved by the existence of many **Latin inscriptions** in Dacia. Thus, the Biertan Donarium bears the inscription *Ego Zenovius votum posui* (I, Zenovius, offered this gift). Another inscription has been found on a ceremonial ring from Micia: *Qvartine vivas* (Long live, Quartine!). Many Christian symbols and

Early Christian funerary inscription at Niculițel of four martyrs: Zoticos, Attalos, Kamasis, Filippus.



Tomb of the four martyrs in Niculițel



The fish was a symbol of early Christians



inscriptions have been discovered on gravestone or religious objects such as rush candles.

The spread of religion was helped by the **Edict of Milan** issued by Emperor Constantine the Great in 313. After this event, Christians founded many bishoprics along the Danube and in Dobrogea. The two probably most notorious Dobrogean monks were John Cassian and **Dionysius Exiguus (Dennis the Small)**. John Cassian wrote and greatly influenced religion in France, while Dionysius is best known as the "inventor" of the Anno Domini (AD) era, which is used to number the years of both the Gregorian calendar and the Julian calendar.

Fresco in 4th century tomb at Tomis



Tradition holds that Andrew the Apostle lived and preached in Dobrogea in earlier times. Due to the Roman initial distrust of Christians, many of them were made **martyrs** on the territory of present Romania as well as in the rest of the Roman Empire.

Essential

Representation of Dionysius Exiguus



Dionysius Exiguus at work



Foundation of the oldest Romanian church in Turnu Severin



- ❖ Romanian religious words that come from Latin prove the early existence of Latin Christianity in Dacia;
- ❖ The Latin religious inscriptions in Dacia also prove how Christianity helped Romanization;
- ❖ Renowned monks and scholars such as John Cassian and Dennis the Small came from Dobrogea.

Vocabulary

- ⌘ **bishopric** = the see, diocese, or office of a bishop;
- ⌘ **monk** = a man who has withdrawn from the world for religious reasons, especially as a member of an order of cenobites living according to a particular rule and under vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience;
- ⌘ **Christianity** = the religion based on the life and teachings of Jesus Christ.
- ⌘ **Donarium** = The part of a temple where offerings were made;
- ⌘ **rush candle** = a candle made from a dried, partly peeled rush that has been dipped in grease;
- ⌘ **martyr** = a person who willingly suffers death rather than renounce his or her religion.

To know more...

In order to understand the age of early Christianity in the Roman Empire, and implicitly in Dacia, you could watch the "Constantine the Great" documentary on YouTube.

Applications

1. Which religion spread into Dacia during the 4th and 5th centuries?
2. In which language did religion spread into Dacia?
3. Give example of two Romanian religious words coming from Latin.
4. Mention one Latin religious inscription from Dacia.
5. Did the spread of religion in Latin help the Romanization process?
6. Who issued the Edict of Milan?
7. Mention one monk from Dobrogea who greatly contributed to Western civilization.
8. Write a 100 word essay about Latinity and Christianity in Dacia during the 4th-5th centuries. Mention religion's contribution to Romanization, inscriptions, Romanian religious words coming from Latin and the role of at least one renowned monk from Dobrogea.

Lesson 6. THE GREAT MIGRATIONS

Attila in the Nuremberg Chronicles



Portrait of Genghis Khan



Gothic treasure discovered at Pietroasa



Objectives

- ❖ to identify the main “barbarian” invasions of the first millennium;
- ❖ to know an effect of the great migrations;
- ❖ to explain how the Daco-Roman gradually transformed into a Vlach (Romanian) population.

Information

By the end of the IIIrd century the Roman Empire could no longer defend its borders against “barbarian” invaders. Emperor Aurelian ordered the retreat of the Roman army and administration out of Dacia. This was done by 275 AD and was known as **Aurelian's retreat**.

After this event, many migratory tribes coming from Asia and Eastern Europe went through Dacia or some even settled there, mixing with the local Daco-Romans. In this context the Daco-Roman population would evolve into a **Vlach** (Romanian) population.

First, the **Goths** (divided into the Visigoths and Ostrogoths) crossed over Dacia on their way into the Eastern Roman Empire. Then, the Huns under **Attila** settled into Pannonia (present day Hungary) and formed a great Hunnic Empire. Afterwards, the **Gepids** took control over Dacia, leaving many proofs of their stay. Next, the **Avars**, hailing from central Asia, included Dacia in their empire (Khaganate), which lasted until the VIIIth century.

In 602 AD the **Slavs** break the Roman defenses in Dobrogea and massively cross over into the Balkan Peninsula. This separated the Latin speakers (Vlachs) of the East into:

- Romanians (Daco-Romans) to the north of the Danube;
- Aromanians, Megleno-Romanians, and Istro-Romanians to the south of the Danube.

The Slavs also settled in Dacia and they became the last component of the formation of the Romanian people and language, lending many words and some customs to the locals.

During the IXth-XIth centuries the **Hungarians** settled in Pannonia and Transylvania. For the following two centuries Romania's territory would be controlled by the **Pechenegs** and **Cumans**, two related Turkic peoples from Central Asia. Finally, starting 1241, armies of the Mongol Empire of **Genghis Khan** crossed over the territory of Romania and devastated many settlements.

Essential

- ❖ Aurelian's retreat (275 AD) took all Roman soldiers and officials out of Dacia;

Yaroslav's helmet, Pecheneg model



Illustration of Gothic soldier



Vlach peasant (lithography, 19th cen.)



- ❖ Dacia, left undefended, underwent many invasions, of which that of the Slavs influenced the birth of the Romanian people most;
- ❖ Daco-Romans became known as Vlachs, those north of the Danube evolved into Romanians, those south of the Danube evolved into Aromanians, Megleno-Romanians and Istro-Romanians.

Vocabulary

- ∞ **barbarian** = a person living outside, especially north of, the Roman Empire, used pejoratively by the Romans;
- ∞ **migration** = the moving from place to place of populations in search for better living conditions or out of the way of an invading force.
- ∞ **Vlachs** = name given to Latin speaking population by German and Slav migrators.
- ∞ **Khaganate** = an empire in Mongolian and Turkic tradition; The **khagan** was the emperor, although the term was historically identical with khan.
- ∞ **Khanate** = an area governed by a khan;
- ∞ **Khan** = title of a king or military ruler used by the Mongol and Turkic tribes of Central Asia.

To know more...

One can use this mnemonic to remember the order of the invasions more easily. Repeat it out loud a few times and it will be of great help!

GO HU GE A SLA BUL HUNG PE CU TA

In order to better understand the struggle of the Roman Empire for resistance and life during the age of the Great Migrations you could watch the "Ancient Rome – Rise and Fall of an Empire" BBC documentary drama. It consists of five episodes that are available for free on YouTube. Another great screening of the age is "Attila" (2001). Don't forget to ask your parents for permission before watching it!

Applications

1. Did Dacia remain a province of the Roman Empire after 275 AD?
2. How did the Daco-Romans start being called during the invasions?
3. Which migratory people influenced Dacia the most?
4. Who are the Latin speakers north of the Danube?
5. Who are the Latin speakers south of the Danube?
6. Who was the leader of the Huns?
7. Who was the leader of the Mongol Empire?
8. Write a 100 word essay about the Great Migrations and Dacia. Mention why did the Roman Empire abandon Dacia, how did each migratory population affect the locals and discuss about Romanians and Aromanians.

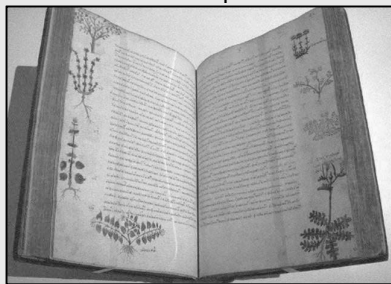


Lesson 7. THE FORMATION OF THE ROMANIAN PEOPLE AND LANGUAGE

In 578, during a battle between the Avars and the Byzantines, one of the Vlach soldiers, seeing that his comrade's knapsack was falling off his horse, shouted: "**Torna, torna, fratre!**" (Turn around, turn around, brother!). This generated chaos and both the Avar and Byzantine armies started running in opposite directions, both understanding they should flee because of an attack. These words are considered to be one of the first mentioned words in the early Romanian language.



Dioscorides, *De Materie Medica*, includes Dacian plant names



Objectives

- to identify the Romance languages of modern Europe;
- to know the racial components of the Romanian people;
- to distinguish the three layers of the Romanian language.

Information

After the fall of the Roman Empire its cultural legacy was not lost. The peoples of Europe continued to speak local dialects of Latin that, in time, evolved into languages. That is how the **Romance languages** appeared: Portuguese, French, Italian, Spanish and Romanian. Each of these languages is based on three components: one dating before the Roman conquest (e.g. Gaulish, Iberian, Etruscan, Dacian); one of them is **Latin** introduced through Romanization; the last component has been laid down during the great migrations (e.g. Germanic, Slavic).

The Romanian people and language were formed during the IVth – VIIth centuries in the context of the great migrations. The **Dacians** and the **Romans** are seen as the ancestors of the Romanian people, although migratory peoples, such as Slavs, were also assimilated through the centuries.

The three layers of the Romanian language are:

- the Dacian layer, consisting of about 170 words, which is 10% of the base vocabulary of Romanian. Examples: *a anina* (to hook), *aprig* (fierce), *baltă* (pond), *bucura* (rejoice), *cățun* (hamlet), *crâng* (forest), *Dunărea* (the Danube), *mire* (groom), *pururea* (eternally), *vatră* (hearth);
- the Latin layer - the main layer of the Romanian language, comprising 60% of the words; Examples: *familie* (family), *frate* (brother), *soră* (sister), *trist* (sad), *român* (Romanian);
- the Slavic layer – around 20% of the vocabulary, Examples: *voievod* (ruler), *boier* (noble), *cinste* (honor), *slab* (weak), *noroi* (mud), *silă* (disgust), *rob* (serf), *osândă* (punishment).

Romanians often appeared in medieval sources as **Vlachs**, **Wallachs**, **Olahs**, **Blachs**, **Ulak** or similar variations. Such peoples are mentioned living in the former territory of Dacia and Moesia, thus assuring the continuity from Daco-Romans to Romanians.

Essential

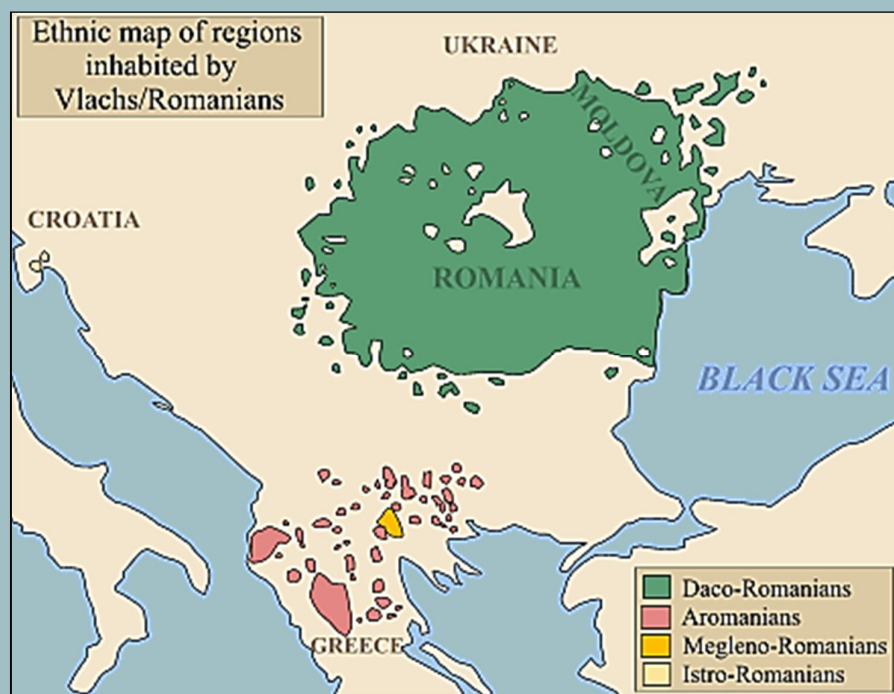
Wallachian peasant (19th cen.)



Wallachian peasant girl (19th cen.)



- ❖ The inheritance of the Roman Empire are the Romance languages of Europe: Portuguese, French, Spanish, Italian, and Romanian;
- ❖ The Dacians and Romans are considered the ancestors of the Romanians;
- ❖ The three layers of the Romanian language are the Dacian, Latin and Slavic layers, of which the Latin one is the most important.



Vocabulary

- ∞ **assimilation** = the merging of cultural traits from previously distinct cultural groups;
- ∞ **Romance language** = the group of languages derived from Latin.

To know more...

Observe the phrase "*She always closes the window before she dines*" in 10 Romance languages:

Latin	(Ea) semper antequam cenat fenestram claudit.
Aromanian	(Ea/Nâsa) încîljîdi/nkîdi totna firîda nîntî di tsînâ.
French	Elle ferme toujours la fenêtre avant de dîner/souper.
Italian	(Ella/Lei) chiude sempre la finestra prima di cenare.
Occitan	(Ela) barra sempre/totjorn la fenèstra abans de sopar.
Portuguese	Ela fecha sempre a janela antes de jantar/cear.

Wallachian messenger at the court of Hungary (Chronicon Pictum)



Romanian
Romansh
Sicilian
Spanish

Ea închide totdeauna fereastra înainte de a cina.
Ella clauda/serra adina la fanestra avant ch'ella tschainia.
Idda chiui sempri la finestra prima di pistiari/manciari.
(Ella) siempre cierra la ventana antes de cenar.

(Source: Wikipedia article on Romance languages)

Which of these language are the most similar?

Applications

1. Romance languages are similar to which ancient language?
2. Mention two Romance languages spoken in Europe.
3. Is Romanian a Romance language?
4. Which peoples are considered the ancestors of the Romanians?
5. Which are the three layers of the Romanian language?
6. Give example of one Romanian word coming from the Dacian, Latin and Slavic languages.
7. Do most Romanian words come from Latin?
8. What does Vlach mean?
9. Write a 100-150 word essay about the formation of the Romanian language and people. Discuss the Romance languages, the ancestors of the Romanians, the three layers of the Romanian language and how were the Romanians called during the Middle Ages.

Theodor Aman – Round dance at Aninoasa (1890)



Lesson 8. THE EARLY ROMANIAN STATES

Around this period the Emperor of Bulgaria was referred to as "rex Bulgarie et Blachie" ("King of Bulgaria and Wallachia"). In the words of the Crusader chronicler Villehardouin, "Johannizza, King of Wallachia, was coming to succour Adrianople with a very great host; for he brought with him Wallachians and Bulgarians, and full fourteen thousand Comans who had never been baptised". This Ioniță Kaloyan could have been a Vlach and that is why his empire is called the Bulgarian-Wallachian Empire.

Statue of Czar Ioniță Kaloyan (Varna)



Romanian conic hut



Objectives

- to mention the causes of the apparition of the early Romanian states;
- to identify early Romanian political entities;
- to know the terms used for early Romanian leaders and states.

Information

Around the end of the first millennium the Romanians could organize themselves in early political entities. This was allowed by the following **causes**:

- the increase of the population and the fertility of the soil;
- developments in the economy;
- the beginnings of feudalism saw the rise of the first land lords called **juzi** (sg. *jude*) and **knezes** (sg. *knez*, in Romanian, **cneaz/cnezi**). A jude or knez would lead several village communities (*obști*) organized in a knezat (principality). Several knezes could be led by a great knez (*mare cneaz*), voivode (*voievod*) or domn/domnitor (lord);
- the great migrations have weakened the power of the nearby Hungary and Byzantine Empire, which allowed the Romanians to develop their own states.

In Transylvania the first voivodes are mentioned in "Gesta Hungarorum": Menumorut (in Crișana with his capital in Biharea), Glad (Banat, Cuvin), Gelu (Someș, Dăbâca). Later sources mention the voivodeships of Gyla (Bălgrad) and Ahtum (Banat).

In Wallachia there were the knezates of Ioan and Farcaș, the voivodeships of Litovoi and Seneslau, and the Country (Țara) of Severin. Litovoi and his brother, Bărbat, fought against Hungary for independence, but they were defeated around 1279.

In Moldova the first states were called either countries (țară), codri (forests), câmp (field) or ocol (enclosure): Codrii Cosminului, Câmpul lui Dragoș, Ocolul Câmpulung, Codrii Orheiului.

In Dobrogea an inscription mentions a certain Jupan Dimitrie ruling in 943. Byzantine sources (Anna Komnene, *The Alexiad*) mention the rule of Tatos, Satza and Sestlav as well as the principality of Karvuna.

Representation of Anna Komnene



Principality of Dobrogea (14th cen.)



Essential

- ❖ The leaders of early medieval Romania were called juzi, knezes, voivodes and domni;
- ❖ In Transylvania the first mentioned rulers are Glad, Gelu and Menumorut;
- ❖ The first states were called either countries (țară), codri (forests), or câmp (field).

Vocabulary

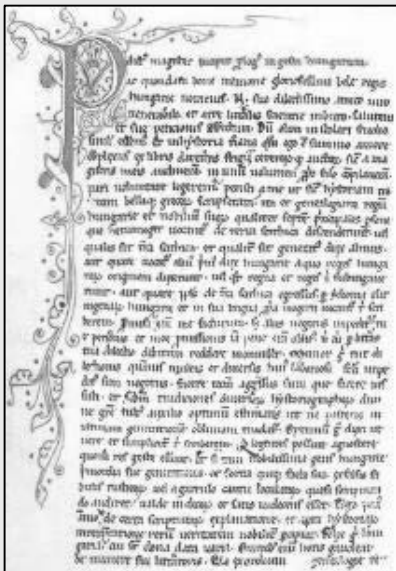
- ∞ **jude/juzi** = (Lat. judex = judge) a leader of an early medieval Romanian community (obște);
- ∞ **knez/knezes** = (Germ. könig = king) a leader of several communities, a prince or rarely a duke. In Romanian it is written cneaz;
- ∞ **domn (domnitor)** = prince, one of the official titles of the ruler of a Romanian principality. It denotes that the ruler is the owner of all the land of the country;
- ∞ **voivode** = prince, one of the official titles of the ruler of a Romanian principality. It denotes that the ruler is the supreme commander of the army.
- ∞ **Gesta Hungarorum** = a chronicle written by Anonymous detailing about the deeds of the Hungarians in Pannonia and Transylvania.
- ∞ **Byzantine** = belonging to the Byzantine, Eastern Roman Empire.
- ∞ **obște/obști** = a community of villages in early medieval Romania.

To know more...

The meeting between Gelu and the Magyars is described in Gesta Hungarorum:

"Next morning, before daybreak, Tuhutum divided his army in two and he sent one part a little way upstream so that, having crossed the river, they might enter into battle while Gelou's warriors were yet unawares. And because they had an easy crossing, both forces arrived at the battle at the same time and they fought fiercely, but the warriors of Duke Gelou were defeated and many of them slain and more captured. When Gelou, their duke, saw this, he fled for his life along with a few men. As he was in flight, hastening to his castle beside the Someș River, Tuhutum's warriors, boldly pursuing Duke Gelou, slew him beside the Căpuș River. Then the inhabitants of the land, seeing the death of their lord, giving the right hand of their own free will chose to themselves as lord Tuhutum, father of Horca, and in that place which is called Esculeu, they confirmed their troth with an oath and from that day the place is called Esculeu, because they swore there." (Chapter 27)

First page of Gesta Hungarorum by Anonymous



What strategy did the Magyars use to defeat Gelu?

Applications

1. Did the great migrations help the apparition of the first Romanian states?
2. Where did Gelu, Glad and Menumorut rule?
3. Where were the states of Tatos, Satza and Sestlav situated?
4. Were Litovoi and his brother successful in fighting against Hungarian domination?
5. What is the significance of the title domn?
6. What is the significance of the title voievod?
7. The chronicle Gesta Hungarorum describes the deeds of the Hungarians or Germans?
8. A state could have many names in early medieval Romania. Give one example.
9. Write a 100-150 word essay about the early Romanian states. Mention the causes of their apparition and examples from Transylvania, Wallachia, Moldova and Dobrogea.

The arrival of the Hungarians in the Carpathian basin, King Stephen captures Gyla (Chronicon Pictum)



Lesson 9. TRANSYLVANIA FROM VOIVODESHIP TO PRINCIPALITY

Coat of arms of Transylvania



Transylvanian Saxons



Wooden church in Bârsana, Maramureș



Objectives

- to determine the character of the Hungarian rule over Transylvania;
- to identify the four historical nations of Transylvania;
- to acknowledge the status of the Romanians in Transylvania.

Information

The Hungarian conquest of Transylvania was a long gradual process which lasted between the XIth and XIIIth centuries. The Hungarians colonized Germans (Saxons, **sași**) and Szekely (**secui**) in order to help defend Transylvania against invaders.

In the beginning, the Romanians were organized into knezates and were led by voivodes, knezes and juzi. The Hungarians wanted to remove this type of organization and replace it with the principality, county and district. Initially, they were successful. Mercurius Princeps Ultrasilvanus is mentioned as ruling, but soon, the Hungarian King has to appoint a voivode in Transylvania. Eustachius is mentioned as one of the early voivodes.

The voivode was free to form a government but he had to respect the right of the **sees** of the Szekely and Saxons to rule themselves. Soon, Catholicism became the preferred religion in Transylvania and Romanians were forced out of nobility and offices (Unio Trium Nationum). The Romanians joined the Bobâlna Revolt in 1437 but they were defeated. The later upheaval under the leadership Gheorghe Doja was also defeated.

After the battle of Mohács in 1526, when Süleyman the Magnificent defeats the Hungarians, Transylvania became an **autonomous** Principality under Ottoman **suzerainty**. Autonomous means that internally it could rule itself under the local law, while Ottoman suzerainty means that Transylvania had to obey the Ottoman Empire in international affairs (for example, maintain good relations with the friends of the Empire and declare war on its enemies).

Princes of Transylvania such as Sigismund Bathory, tried to control Wallachia and Moldova in international politics. Other princes, such as Gabriel Bethlen, looked after the independence and the cultural and economic development of Transylvania.

Essential

- ❖ Transylvania had a specific relation with the Hungarian Kingdom, it was traditionally ruled by a voivode;

Sigismund Bathory, Prince of Transylvania



Gabriel Bethlen, Prince of Transylvania



Adrian Stokes – Romanian cottages in Transylvania



- ❖ The four historical nations of Transylvania are the Romanians, Hungarians, Szekelys and Saxons;
- ❖ After Hungary was defeated by the Ottoman Empire, Transylvania became an autonomous principality under Ottoman suzerainty.

Vocabulary

- ∞ **see** = the official seat, center of authority, jurisdiction, or office of a bishop or captain;
- ∞ **autonomous** = independent of the laws of another state or government; self-governing;
- ∞ **county** = the territory under the jurisdiction of a count or earl;
- ∞ **principality** = a state ruled by a prince/voivode;
- ∞ **suzerainty** = dominance or power in international affairs through legal authority;
- ∞ **Ultrasilvania** = (Lat. "land beyond the forest"), medieval name for Transylvania (also called Siebenbürgen, Erdély, Ardeal).

To know more...

The movie "The Conquest" (1996) portrays the founding of Hungary in the 9th century by following the fate of the Magyar chief Arpad.

As a result of the success of Bram Stoker's novel "Dracula", Transylvania has become a popular setting for gothic horror fiction, and most particularly vampire fiction. Countless movies, songs or games bear its name or are set in Transylvania. Using the internet, find out in detail how Transylvania became associated with vampires.

Applications

1. How was Transylvania organized before the Hungarians arrived?
2. How long did the conquest of Transylvania take?
3. What is Transylvania famous for in popular culture?
4. Which are the four historical nations of Transylvania?
5. How else is Transylvania called?
6. Was the Bobâlna Revolt successful?
7. Which Sultan defeated Hungary in 1526?
8. What happened to Transylvania after the defeat of Hungary?
9. Write a 100 word essay about Transylvania from voivodeship to principality. Discuss about the four historical nations of Transylvania, the process of its conquest, the local organization, the status of Romanians, rebellions and what happened after the battle of Mohács.

Lesson 10. THE FOUNDING OF WALLACHIA AND MOLDOVA

Coat of arms of Wallachia



Ambush at Posada, 1330 (Chronicon Pictum)



Princely church in Curtea de Argeș



Objectives

- to know the process of the founding of Wallachia;
- to identify the stages of the founding of Moldova;
- to be familiar with the first rulers of Dobrogea.

Information

The founding of the Voievodships of Wallachia (Țara Românească) and Moldova is based on two related historical processes: *descălecat* (dismounting) and *întemeiere* (founding). The first one, *descălecat*, refers to the crossing over of the Carpathians by noble Romanian families from Transylvania that could no longer live there because of religious or political difficulties. The second process, *întemeiere*, refers to the unification of the lesser knezates and voievodships found in Wallachia and Moldova by the nobles who had crossed over from Transylvania.

In 1290 **Negru Vodă** “dismounts” from Făgăraș into Wallachia and unifies the country starting from Câmpulung, his first capital, to Argeș, the second capital (it would be afterwards moved to Târgoviște and then Bucharest). Wallachia’s independence is assured under **Basarab I**, who defeated King Charles Robert of Hungary at the Battle of Posada (1330). Wallachia was consolidated by voivodes Nicolae Alexandru and Vladislav Vlaicu, who helped in the creation of the metropolitanates of Wallachia and Severin under the Patriarch of Constantinople, thus resisting Hungary’s tendency of expansion.

In Moldova the first “dismounting” was that of **Dragoș**, who established a march there for the King of Hungary. In 1359 the Moldavians rebelled against his heirs, Sas and Balç, under Knez **Bogdan** of Maramureș. This was the second „dismounting” in Moldova. Moldova was consolidated under **Petru Mușat**, who swore fealty to the King of Poland and created the Metropolitanate of Suceava. Under **Roman I**, Moldova expanded as far as the Black Sea, while under Alexandru cel Bun’s peaceful reign the country received recognition from Constantinople.

Dobrogea became independent in the XIVth century by removing itself from the Bulgarian Empire with the support of Constantinople. It achieved the greatest expansion during **Dobrotici**, whose name was given to the whole region by the Ottomans. Later, Dobrogea would first become part of Wallachia, under Mircea cel Bătrân, and then it would be included in the Ottoman Empire until 1878.

Coat of arms of Moldova



Bogdan I the Founder (1363-1367)



Alexandru cel Bun (1401-1433)



Essential

- ❖ A “descălecat” is a crossing of the mountains from Transylvania, “întemeiere” means the unification of smaller knezates into a greater voivodeship;
- ❖ Negru Vodă dismounted in Wallachia, while Dragoș and Bogdan dismounted in Moldova;
- ❖ Dobrogea took its name after its powerful leader, Dobrotici.

Vocabulary

- ∞ **metropolitanate** = the seat of authority of an Orthodox metropolitan bishop;
- ∞ **march** = a border region, province, designed to defend against invasions;
- ∞ **fealty** = the obligation or the engagement to be faithful to a lord, usually sworn to by a vassal.

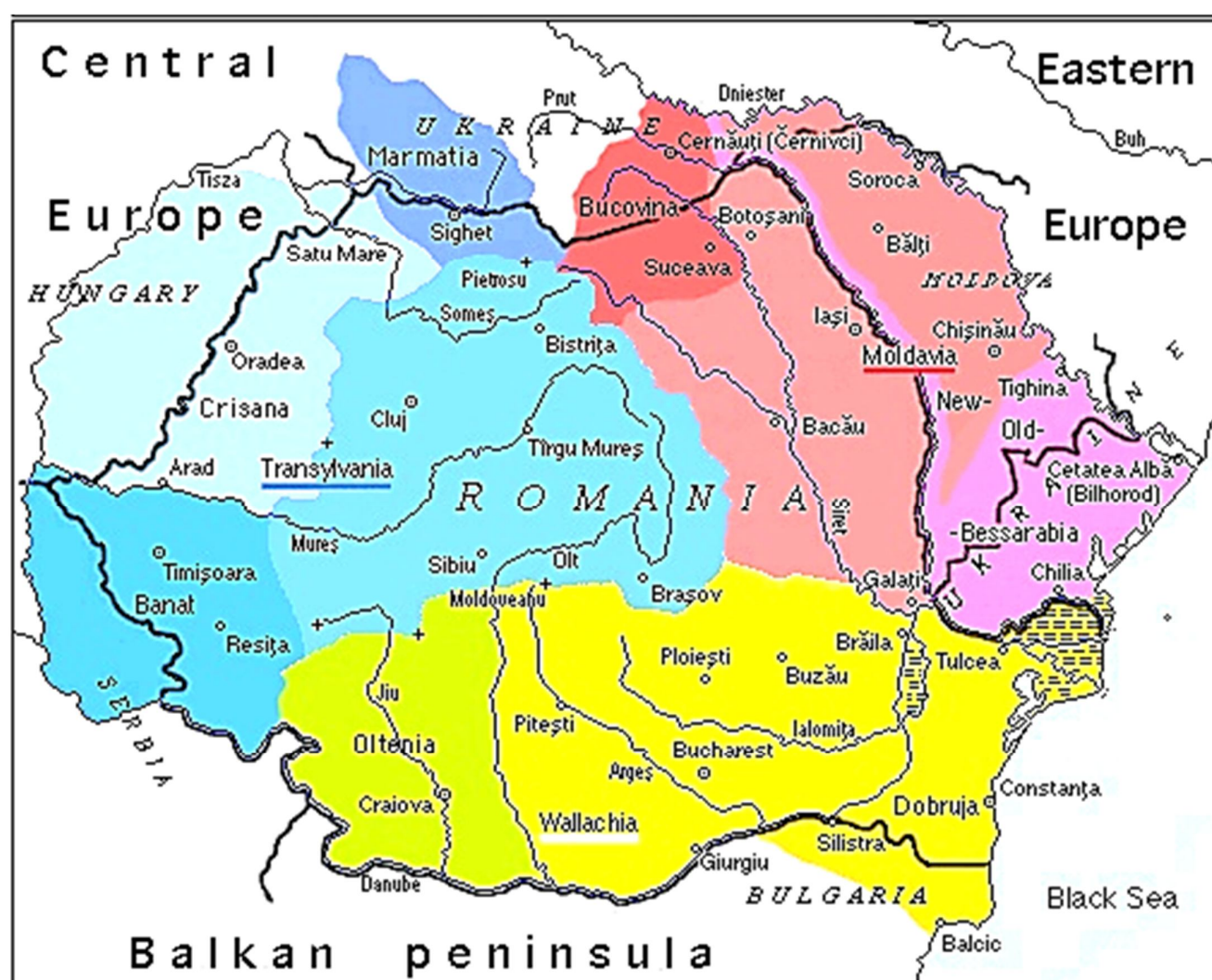
To know more...

The film “Mircea” (1989) displays Wallachia at the end of the XIVth century. It is available for free on YouTube with English subtitles. Watch a movie and find out why the Crusade of Nicopolis failed in 1396.

Applications

1. Where did the Romanian nobles who performed the “descălecat” come from?
2. What is the significance of “întemeiere”?
3. Who dismounted in Wallachia?
4. Where was the first capital of Wallachia?
5. Where was the second capital of Wallachia?
6. Who first dismounted in Moldova?
7. Who defeated Dragoș’s heirs in Moldova?
8. Name one ruler of Dobrogea.
9. Write a 100-150 word essay about the founding of Wallachia and Moldova. Describe the historical processes involved, name the first leaders and their accomplishments and mention Dobrogea’s history.

Historical regions of Romania



Wallachia in the late 14th cen.



Lesson 11. THE MEDIEVAL VILLAGE

Village house with thatched roof



Traditional windmill



Romanian folk costumes (Braşov)



Objectives

- to acknowledge the rural space as the predominant environment in medieval Romania;
- to understand the structures of power in the rural community;
- to identify the social classes of medieval Romania.

Information

In medieval Romania the village represented the predominant settlement type. Its name, *sat*, derives from the Latin word *fossatum*, meaning "place fortified with ditches".

The rural society included three great social classes:

- nobles or boyars;
- clerics: the metropolitan, bishops, priests and monks;
- peasants.

Of all three Romanian countries, Transylvania had the greatest population, settled in more than 3,300 villages. In Wallachia there were about 2,100 villages but the number increased with time's passing. A village could have between 15 and 50 houses in Moldova and Wallachia, and about 70 in Transylvania.

Villages were either **free** or **dependent**. Dependent villages were found on the domains of the domnitor, boyars or of any monastery. Their inhabitants had few rights and were called *rumâni* and *vecini* in Wallachia and Moldova, or *iobagi* and *jeleri* in Transylvania. Most of their life was spent toiling for their feudal lord.

Free villages were inhabited by freeholders called *moşneni*, *megieşi* or *răzeşi*. They often practiced many crafts and owned the land they worked. Freeholders had the right to elect their leader, a *jude* or *cneaz*. The village *council of the elders* (*sfatul bătrânilor*), made up of the *good and elderly people* (*oamenii buni şi bătrâni*), decided justice based on *the law of the land* (*legea pământului*).

The houses were very simple, made of wood in hilly and mountain areas, and made of adobe in plain areas. There were no windows, light would come from candles or rush lights dipped in sheep fat. Houses were huts dug partially or totally inside the ground. Despite the conditions of those times, peasant houses were kept very clean.

The life of the peasants was controlled by the agricultural cycle (sowing, reaping, and ploughing) and by the religious celebrations (feasts, births, deaths, marriages). They were good Christians, often going to church and always fasting. Meat was a rare treat, reserved for Christmas and Easter. Everyday food consisted of brown bread and the available vegetables. The imaginative spirit of the peasants allowed the creation and practice of many folk customs.

Nicolae Grigorescu – *Oxcart* (Car cu boi)



Traditional hay stack



Wallachian peasantry



Essential

- ❖ Most medieval Romanians lived in villages;
- ❖ Villages could be dependent or free, life was a lot harsher for dependent peasants who did not own any land;
- ❖ The traditional lifestyle of the peasants was based on the agricultural works and the important religious celebrations.

Vocabulary

- ∞ **feudal** = of the system by which people gave certain services e.g. military support to a more powerful man in return for lands, protection, etc.;
- ∞ **adobe** = A sun-dried, unburned brick of clay and straw;
- ∞ **fast** = to eat only sparingly or of certain kinds of food, especially as a religious observance.

To know more...

The documentary "Wild Carpathia" displays rural life in the mountains of Transylvania today. It is a good example of how life was like in the village centuries ago. It is available for free on the internet.



Applications

1. Which Romanian word comes from the Latin word *fossatum*?
2. Which were the three medieval social classes?
3. Was it better to be a free peasant or a dependent peasant in the Romanian middle ages?
4. Provide one name for a dependent peasant in medieval Romania.
5. Provide one name for a free peasant in medieval Romania.
6. What was the role of the councils of the elders in villages?
7. Mention two important celebrations for the medieval Romanians?
8. What were the houses built of in medieval Romania?
9. Write a 100-150 word essay about the medieval village referring to Romania. Mention its importance, the social classes, two types of villages, the organization of the village, feasts and celebrations and everyday life.

Lesson 12. THE MEDIEVAL TOWN

The main offices (*dregătorii*) serving the court of the voivode were:

Ban – ruler in Banat, Oltenia;

Clucer – Master of the Royal Court;

Comis – Master of the Horse;

Hatman – in Moldova, Keeper of the Royal Sword and Bludgeon;

Spătar – same as Hatman for Wallachia;

Ispravnic – representative of the Voivode, Prefect;

Logofăt – Chancellor;

Paharnic – Royal Cup-bearer;

Pârcălab – the head of a county, Governor, Prefect;

Portar de Suceava – Gatekeeper;

Postelnic – Chamberlain;

Staroste – Guildmaster;

Stolnic – Seneschal;

Vătaf – Overseer;

Vistiernic – Treasurer;

Vornic – attorney general and interior minister.

Great (*mare, vel*), second (*vtori*), third (*treti*), etc., were added to the above titles to distinguish hierarchy.

XVIIIth century Bucharest (litography)



Objectives

- to appreciate urbanization in the three Romanian countries;
- to identify the roles of market towns and cities;
- to provide examples of Romanian medieval towns and market towns.

Information

The development of towns and urbanization has followed the development of economic exchanges. Small market towns where peasants exchanged their agricultural products gradually turned into towns as wealth accumulated. Of the three Romanian countries, Transylvania had the most developed urban life, thanks to the Saxons who helped build Braşov, Sibiu, Sighişoara, Cluj, Rodna, Bistriţa, etc.

Some towns were very important administrative centres (Bucharest, Iaşi, Cluj), others were religious, economic or military centres (Suceava, Craiova, Târgul de Floci, Câmpulung, Baia, Buzău). **Guilds**, professional associations intended to help the development of crafts and professions, were based in towns and were very involved in the local administration.

The population of a town was not usually greater than a few thousand inhabitants. The largest town in Transylvania was Braşov, with over 10,000 inhabitants. Braşov, situated in the middle of the three Romanian countries, had a very important economic role as a common market. Bucharest had 50,000 inhabitants at the end of the XVIIth century, while Iaşi housed about 20,000 people.

The power and wealth of some towns allowed some of them to rule themselves according to charts. In this case, the citizens of a town could elect a town council consisting of 12 *juraţi* (juries) in Transylvania or *părgari* (aldermen) in Wallachia and Moldova. The town council was led by a mayor, called *jude* (judge) in Transylvania, *judeţ* (Wallachia) or *şoltuz* (Moldova).

The town was also the preferred location of court of the voivode. The voivode or domn was anointed by the metropolitan and had supreme power over his subjects. Still, he was expected to be kind and to reward his people with lordly grace (*milă domnească*), according to their loyalty to him, with tracts of land (*dedină, ocină*), and titles (*slujbă*). In case the voivode died, the heir of royal blood (*os domnesc*) had to be confirmed by the great boyars or by the *great assembly of the country* (*marea adunare a ţării*), consisting of all the boyars, bishops, hegumens, representatives from towns and merchants. This is called **elective succession**. Reigns were often short because sometimes the boyars plotted to have the voivode removed and replaced. In case the plot was discovered the boyars would be executed for treason (*hiclenie*) and disloyalty (*felonie, infidelitate*).

Iași in the XVIIIth century



A Wallachian inn



Wallachia in Nuremberg Chronicle



Wallachian and Moldavian noblemen



Essential

- ❖ Transylvania was the most urbanized of the three Romanian countries;
- ❖ Market towns and towns were very important for their role in commerce and economic exchanges;
- ❖ The largest medieval towns were Bucharest, Brașov, Iași, Sibiu, Câmpulung, and Suceava.

Vocabulary

- ∞ **guild** = an association of persons of the same trade or pursuits, formed to protect mutual interests and maintain standards;
- ∞ **anoint** = to put oil on during a religious ceremony as a sign of sanctification or consecration;
- ∞ **hegumen** = the abbot, prior, of an Orthodox monastery;
- ∞ **court** = the residence, retinues, or household of a sovereign or nobleman.

To know more...



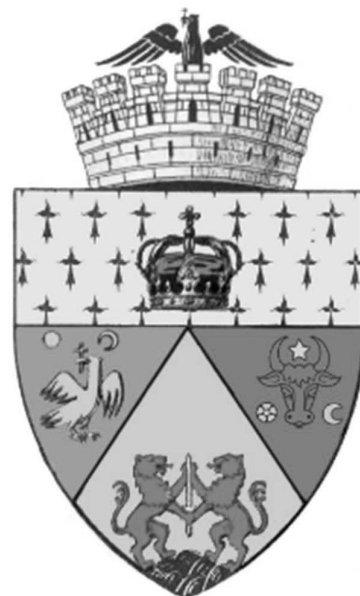
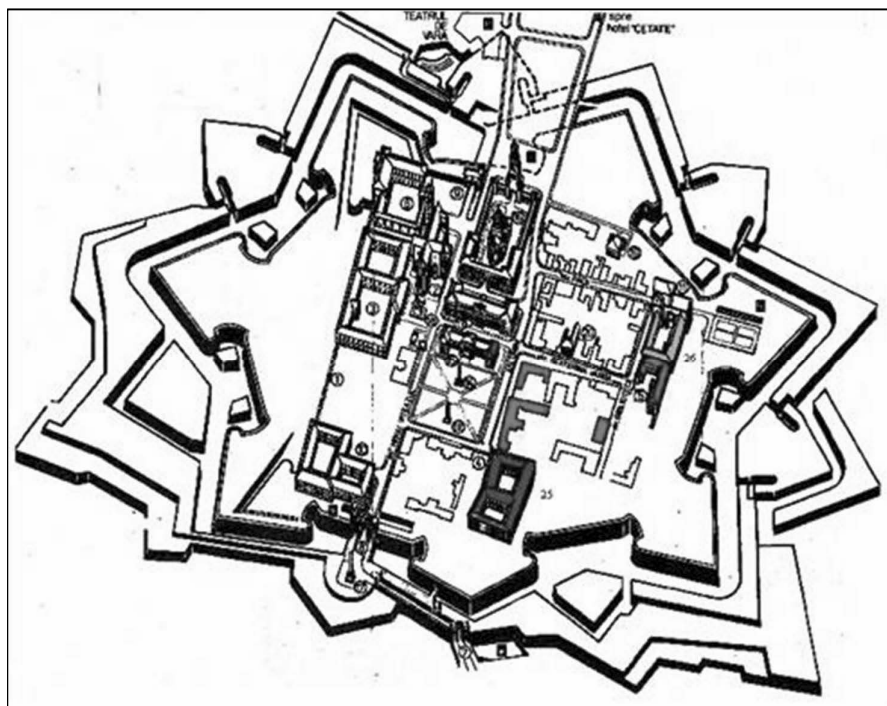
In 2007 Sibiu was declared a European cultural capital, together with Luxembourg, due to its rich medieval heritage. Go on the internet and write a report about Sibiu in the form of a poster. Mention which are the main attractions and which are the main cultural events taking place in Sibiu every year, and include pictures of them if possible.

Applications

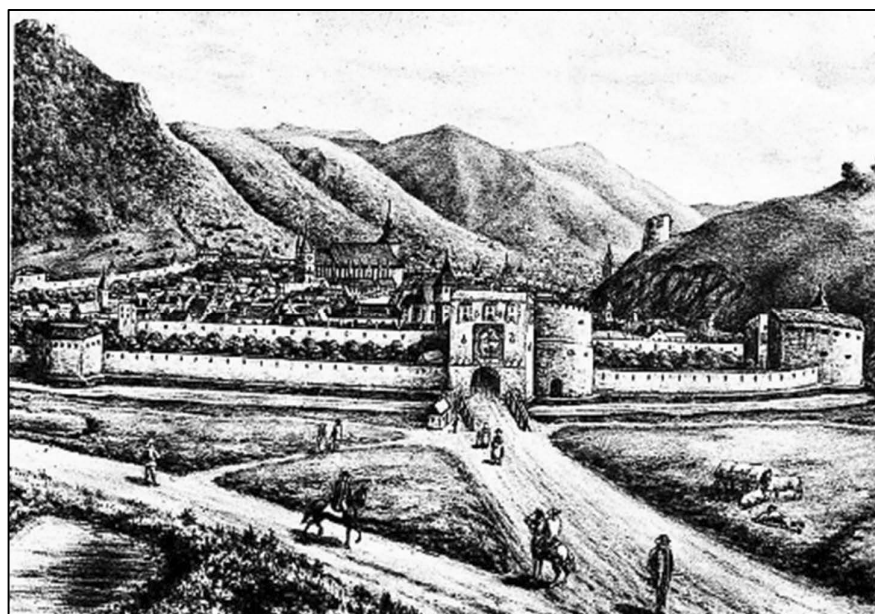
1. Which of the three Romanian countries was most urbanized?
2. Which nation founded many towns in Transylvania?
3. Give example of an administrative center (capital).
4. What is a guild?
5. Which economic activities took place in market towns?
6. How many members were there in the town council?
7. How was the mayor called by the medieval Romanians?
8. The court of the voivode preferred to be assembled in towns or villages?

9. Write a 100-150 word essay about medieval towns in Romania. Refer to their importance, urbanization in the three countries, number of inhabitants, examples of towns, the role of guilds, the organization of the town council and the courts of the voivodes.

Plan of the Alba Carolina Fortress of Alba Iulia and current coat of arms



Braşov citadel coat of arms and fortress (XVIIth cen.)



Lesson 13. THE ROMANIAN VOIVODES AND THE LATE CRUSADES

Mircea cel Bătrân



Iancu de Hunedoara



Objectives

- to understand the international relations of the Romanian countries during the XVth-XVIth centuries;
- to name Romanian medieval rulers who took part in the late crusades;
- to ascertain the importance of the rule of Ștefan cel Mare.

Information

Mircea cel Bătrân (the Elder, 1386-1418)

The late crusades included the military actions undertaken by the European powers at the end of the XIVth century against the expansion of the Ottoman Empire. Mircea cel Bătrân was the first Romanian voievod to join the late crusades. He first became an ally of Poland and then allied Wallachia (Țara Românească) with Sigismund of Hungary. After Țara Românească took Dobrogea, the Ottomans invaded and Mircea cel Bătrân won a tactical victory at Rovine in 1394. This encouraged the European states who organized a crusade which ended in disaster at the battle of Nicopolis in 1396. Towards the end of his reign, Mircea cel Bătrân paid tribute to the Ottomans in exchange for peace.

Iancu de Hunedoara (1441-1456)

Iancu de Hunedoara was the voivode of Transylvania who had a leading role in the late crusades. He was an initiator of "the long campaign" against the Ottomans. During the crusade of 1444 the King of Hungary himself died at the battle of Varna, which convinced Iancu of the need to attract the Romanian countries against the Ottomans. Regardless of his efforts, he was defeated at the battle of Kossovopolje in 1448 and in 1453 Constantinople was conquered by Mehmet the Conqueror. Three years later, Iancu de Hunedoara stopped the Ottoman advance at the battle of Belgrade. His glory was short-lived as he died of plague a month after the battle.

Vlad Țepeș (the Impaler, 1448, 1456-1462, 1476)

Also known in popular culture as Dracula, Vlad Țepeș refused to pay tribute to the Ottomans and led a military campaign south of the Danube. This attracted the wrath of the Sultan who advanced as far as Târgoviște. Vlad Țepeș used the **scorched earth** tactic and personally

Battle of Nicopolis, 1396



Vlad Țepeș



Ștefan cel Mare



commanded the **night attack** of June 1456 against the camp of the sultan, which caused chaos and confusion in the Ottoman army. In the aftermath of this campaign he was betrayed by the boyars and replaced with his brother, Radu cel Frumos (the Beautiful).

Ștefan cel Mare (the Great, 1457-1504)

Ștefan cel Mare's reign was the longest and most glorious reign of the Romanian Middle Ages. His main concern was assuring the independence of his country and not fighting two enemies at the same time. His foreign policy can be divided in three stages:

- The war against Hungary:

Ștefan allied himself with the King of Poland and took Chilia, a fortress owned by the Hungarians at the Black Sea. This attracted the anger of Matthias Corvinus, the King of Hungary. The battle was fought at **Baia** in 1467 and Ștefan cel Mare was victorious. This assured the country's independence towards Hungary.

- The war against the Ottoman Empire:

Ștefan's increasing power was damaging the interests of the Ottomans, who sent Suleyman Pasha with a host of 120,000 men to invade Moldova. At the battle of **Vaslui** in 1475 the Ottomans were defeated. This earned Ștefan a lot of glory and renown, but the following year he would be defeated by the Sultan at the battle of **Valea Albă**. Ștefan was able to resist in the fortress of Suceava and continued his reign fighting minor battles against the Tatars. In the end he agreed to pay a small tribute of 3,000 florins and accepted Ottoman suzerainty.

- The war against Poland:

After the death of the King of Poland (Casimir IV) the ambition of the new king was that of controlling Moldova and removing Ștefan. The Polish invading force was ambushed at the battle of **Codrii Cosminului** in 1497 and defeated. After this victory the conflict ended a peace treaty bringing "eternal peace" was signed between Poland and Moldova.

Ștefan cel Mare died in 1504 after reigning for 47 years. He was buried at Putna, a monastery he had built, and his tomb can be visited today.

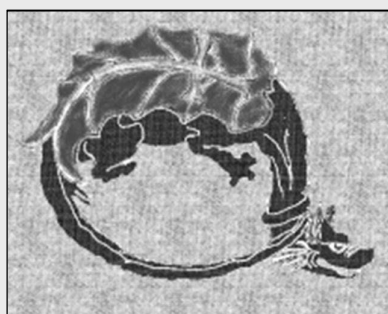
Essential

- ❖ Romanian leaders such as Mircea cel Bătrân and Ștefan cel Mare participated in the late crusades against the Ottoman Empire;
- ❖ The rulers used both military force and diplomacy to achieve their purposes. In order to assure the peace of the realm they paid tribute and accepted Ottoman suzerainty;

Woodcut depicting Vlad Țepeș



Order of the Dragon insignia



Battle of Baia, 1467



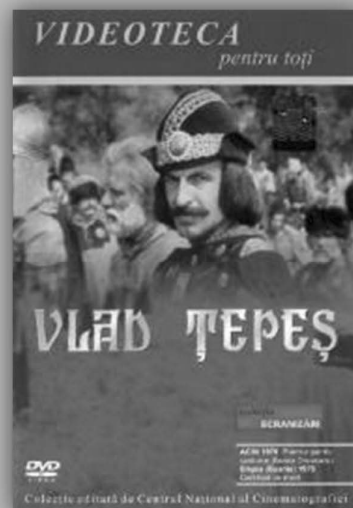
- ❖ Ștefan cel Mare ruled for 47 years between 1457-1504, his reign was the longest and most glorious.

Vocabulary

- ⌘ **tribute** = a payment in money or other valuables made by one ruler or nation to another in acknowledgment of submission or as the price of protection or security;
- ⌘ **plague** = a highly fatal infectious disease that is caused by the bacterium *Yersinia* (syn. *Pasturella*) *pestis*, is transmitted primarily by the bite of a rat flea, and occurs in bubonic, pneumonic, and septicemic forms.
- ⌘ **crusade** = any holy war undertaken on behalf of a religious cause;
- ⌘ **scorched earth** = the policy in warfare of removing or destroying everything that might be useful to an invading enemy, especially by fire;
- ⌘ **treaty** = a formal agreement between two or more states, as in reference to terms of peace or trade.

To know more...

The movies "Ștefan cel Mare" (1974) and "Vlad Țepeș" (1979) portray the Romanian Middle Ages during the last crusades very well. Don't forget to ask permission from your parents before watching these movies!



Applications

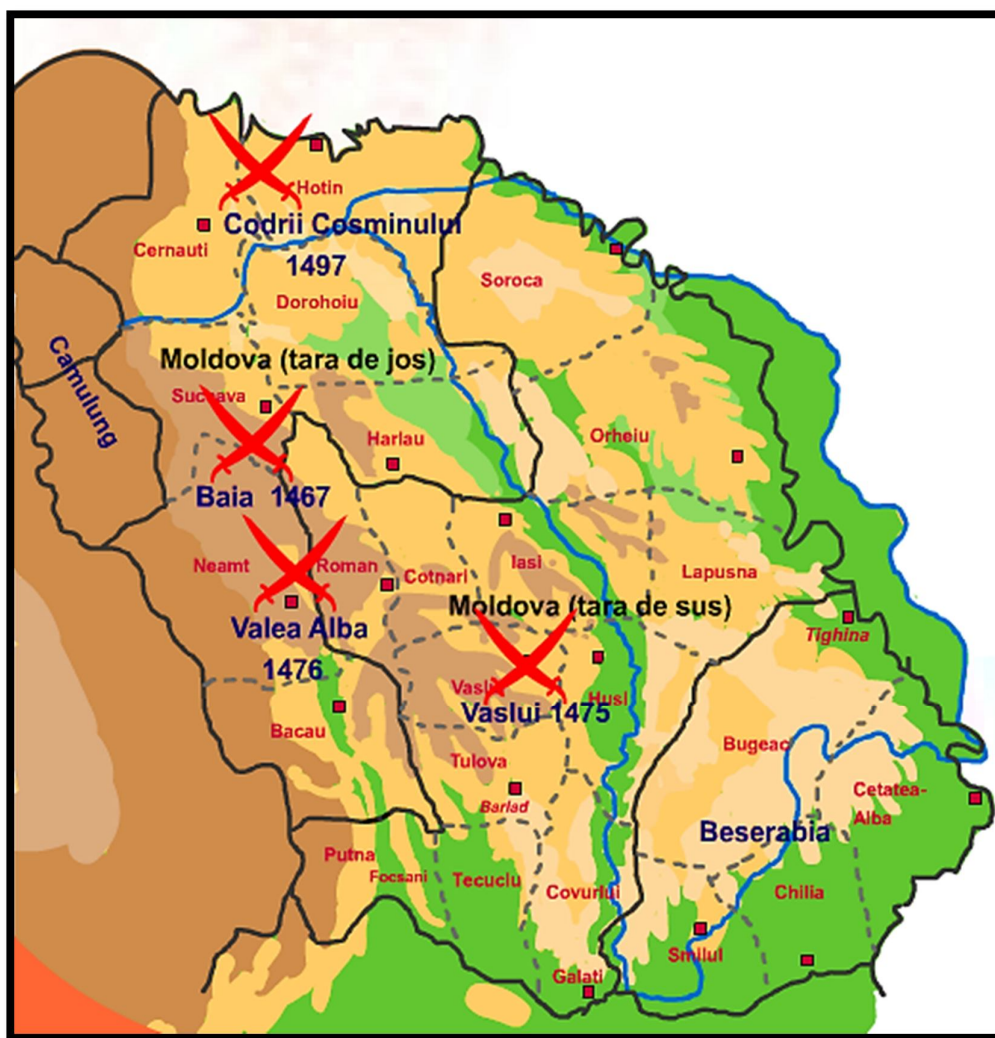
1. When did Ștefan cel Mare rule?

Theodor Aman – The Battle with Torches
(detail)



2. Which Romanian leader fought at the battle of Rovine?
3. Was Iancu de Hunedoara a leader of Țara Românească or Transylvania?
4. Why was Vlad Țepeș nicknamed “the Impaler”?
5. Did the King of Hungary win the battle of Baia against Ștefan cel Mare?
6. Why did the Romanian leaders pay tribute to the Ottomans?
7. What happened at the crusade of Nicopolis?
8. What happened in the conflict between Ștefan cel Mare and Poland?
9. Write a 150-100 word essay about the Romanian voivodes and the late crusades. Mention the activity of at least two Romanian rulers by detailing about their military actions.

Map of Moldova during Ștefan cel Mare with main battles



Lesson 14. MIHAI VITEAZUL

Constantin Brâncoveanu (1688-1714) and Dimitrie Cantemir (1710-11)

Towards the end of the XVIIth century, the Russian and the Habsburg empires became more and more involved in the Romanian countries, wishing to expand their borders. Rulers such as Matei Basarab, Vasile Lupu and Gheorghe Rákóczi I had to carefully deal with this new diplomatic reality. The agreements between the Romanian voivodes and the representatives of Russia and Austria attracted the suspicion of the Ottomans.



Constantin Brâncoveanu (above), voivode of Țara Românească, was taken to Istanbul and witnessed his whole family being decapitated before having his head cut off, thus becoming a martyr saint.

Dimitrie Cantemir (below), voivode of Moldova and great scholar and composer, allied himself with Peter the Great of Russia but they were defeated at the battle of Stănilești. He fled to Russia where he lived for the rest of his life.



Objectives

- to acknowledge the importance of the rule of Mihai Viteazul;
- to be aware of Mihai Viteazul's role as first unifier of the Romanian countries;
- to understand the removal of the native voivodes after Constantin Brâncoveanu and Dimitrie Cantemir.

Information

In 1593, Mihai Pătrașcu became the leader of Țara Românească in a context when the payments that had to be sent to the Ottomans became really burdening for the country. Wishing to end this, he invited all the Levantine moneylenders to a fortress near Bucharest which he burned together with everybody inside. He joined the **Holy League** and signed an alliance with Sigismund Bathory of Transylvania. In retaliation, Sinan Pasha was sent with an invading force but he was defeated at the battle of **Călugăreni** in 1595 (pictured).



After the danger passed he accepted the advantageous suzerainty of both the Ottomans and the Habsburgs. A really unpopular decision was that of binding serfs to the land (no peasant could move in search of a better life), which won him the support of the nobles.

Noticing how Transylvania and Moldova were turning hostile towards Țara Românească, he took action. In 1599 he defeated Andrei Bathory of Transylvania at the battle of Șelimbăr. Next year he was victorious over Ieremia Movilă of Moldova, thus uniting the three Romanian countries under his rule.

After these events, the Ottomans no longer trusted the Romanians to rule themselves so they began appointing voivodes from the great Greek families of the Phanar neighbourhood of Istanbul. These rulers would become known as Phanariots.



Mihai Viteazul and his daughter, Florica



Mihai Viteazul in Alba Iulia



The nearby powers became jealous on his victories and feared his power had risen too much. The Hungarian nobility did not like the new state of affairs and asked for the help of the Habsburgs against the Romanian voivode. General Basta, sent by the Habsburgs, and the Hungarian nobles defeated Mihai at the battle of Mirăslău. He also lost support of Moldova and Țara Românească and had to go to Vienna and Prague to ask for Emperor's Rudolf II help.

The Emperor sent Mihai Viteazul and General Basta to defeat Sigismund Bathory, which they accomplished admirably at the battle of Gurăslău. Since his allies no longer needed him, the Habsburg Emperor sent General Basta who, employing Walloon mercenaries, betrayed and killed Mihai Viteazul in 1601 near Turda.

Mihai Viteazul's deeds provided the next generations with hope that through effort and perseverance the national unification of all Romanians could be achieved. In the XIXth century he became the symbol of the national unity of Romania.

Essential

- ❖ Mihai Viteazul allied Țara Românească to the Holy League wishing to put an end to the Ottoman suzerainty;
- ❖ Mihai Viteazul was the first unifier of Țara Românească, Moldova and Transylvania, although for a short time;
- ❖ After the reigns of Constantin Brâncoveanu and Dimitrie Cantemir, the Ottomans no longer trusted local Romanian rulers out of fear of rebellion.

Vocabulary

General Basta



The assassination of Mihai Viteazul in 1601, Turda Field



Seal during the union of Wallachia, Moldova and Transylvania



- ⌘ **Walloon** = a member of a French-speaking people living chiefly in south Belgium and adjacent parts of France;
- ⌘ **Levant** = the former name for the geographical area of the eastern Mediterranean that is now occupied by Lebanon, Syria, and Israel;
- ⌘ **Holy League** = an alliance against the Ottoman Empire set up by Pope Clement VIII in 1595;
- ⌘ **Habsburg** = sometimes referred to as the House of Austria, it was one of the most important royal houses of Europe. Originally from Switzerland, the dynasty first reigned in Austria, which they ruled for over six centuries. A series of dynastic marriages brought Burgundy, Spain, Bohemia, Hungary, and other territories under their rule.
- ⌘ **Phanar** = Fener, Fanar, home to most of the Greeks who remained in the city of Constantinople after its conquest. The Patriarchate of Constantinople moved to the area as well, and is still located there.

To know more...



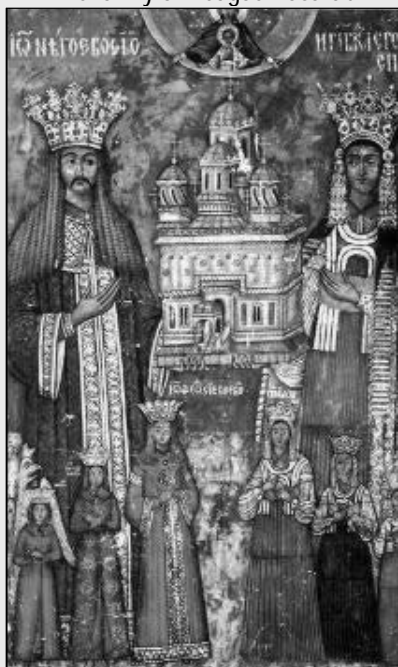
The movie "Michael the Brave" (1971) depicts the reign of Mihai Viteazul. This movie features large scale battle scenes mixed with political intrigues, murderous treachery, and family drama. Ask for the permission of your parents before watching the movie!

Applications

1. What was the family name of Mihai Viteazul?
2. Did Mihai Viteazul join the Holy League against the Ottoman Empire?
3. What happened at the battle of Călugăreni?
4. Who did Mihai Viteazul fight against in Transylvania?
5. Who did Mihai Viteazul fight against in Moldova?
6. Were the Habsburgs faithful allies of Mihai Viteazul?
7. What was the fate of Constantin Brâncoveanu in Istanbul?
8. What came of the alliance between Dimitrie Cantemir and Peter the Great of Russia?
9. Write a 100-150 word essay about the rule of Mihai Viteazul, mention his allegiance to the Holy League, the war against the Ottomans and later against Transylvania and Moldova. Explain what happened to the Romanian countries after the reigns of Constantin Brâncoveanu and Dimitrie Cantemir.

Lesson 15. CULTURE (XVth-XVIIIth centuries.)

The family of Neagoe Basarab



Dosoftei, metropolitan of Moldova and first poet of Romania



Nicolaus Olahus



Objectives

- to understand the nature of Romanian medieval culture;
- to provide examples of Romanian scholars and their important works;
- to appreciate the developments of the Transylvanian School.

Information

The culture of medieval Romania had a Byzantine character, owing to Orthodox faith of the Romanians. The languages of the Church and of learning were initially Greek and Old Church Slavonic. In Transylvania, due to its rather Western culture, Latin was the language of learned men. One of the first works in Slavonic were written by the monks Macarie, Eftimie and Azarie, and a masterpiece of Slavonic literature was **The teachings of Neagoe Basarab to his son Theodosie** (translated in Romanian as *Învățăturile lui Neagoe Basarab către fiul său Teodosie*).

At the end of the XVIth century Slavonic started being replaced with Romanian, written in the same Cyrillic alphabet (the present alphabet would be adopted at the half of the XIXth century). The first Romanian writing is **The letter of Neacșu of Câmpulung** dating 1521. The Romanian language used in this letter is very similar to the language spoken nowadays. The first Romanian poet was **Dosoftei**, metropolitan of Moldova and author of an extensive and very well written Psalter in verses. The first Bible in Romanian was published in 1688 in Bucharest under voivode Șerban Cantacuzino.

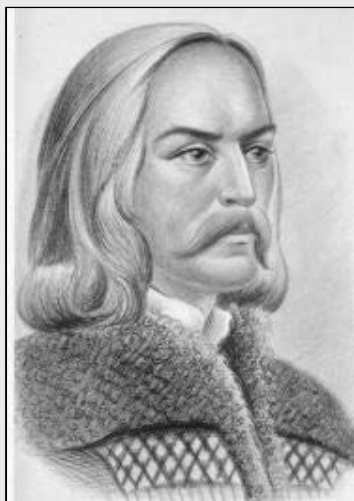
Humanism and Renaissance are also represented in the Romanian space. In Transylvania, Nicolaus Olahus and Ioan Honterus studied the ancient roots of the Romanians. In Moldova, the renowned chroniclers Grigore Ureche, Miron Costin and Ion Neculce wrote down the history of their country, while in Țara Românească, Radu Popescu and Constantin Cantacuzino wrote their own annals (**letopiseț**). The most illustrious representative of Romanian humanism was **Dimitrie Cantemir**. He wrote works in many fields and remains one of the greatest composers of medieval Turkish music. For his excellent scholarship he was received within the Royal Academy of Berlin. His best known works are *Descriptio Moldaviae* (Description of Moldova) and the *History of the Growth and Decay of the Othman Empire*.

The Enlightenment was especially well represented by the **Transylvanian School** (*Școala Ardeleană*), current which brought together a great number of scholars concerned with the national liberation of the Romanians. The development of this current was allowed by the creation of the Romanian Greek-Catholic church in 1699.

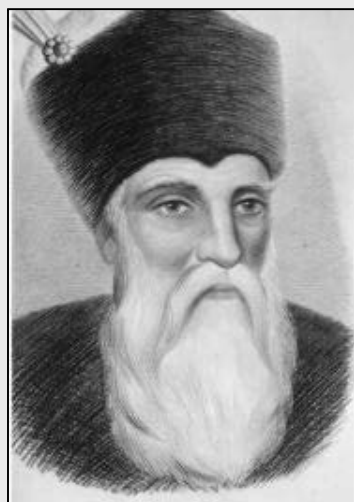
Ioan Honterus



Grigore Ureche



Miron Costin



Greek-Catholic Romanians maintained their Orthodox customs but recognized the supremacy of the Pope in exchange for political and social rights. This allowed them to study in Vienna or Rome, where they found many sources of their national history.

Petru Maior, Samuil Micu, Gheorghe Șincai, and Ioan Budai-Deleanu approached the historical unity of the Romanian in their writings. Encouraged by the example of bishop Ioan Inochentie Micu, they wrote *Supplex Libellus Valachorum* in 1791, a chart including what rights should be given to Romanians in Transylvania and why. The chart did not meet its goal but it remains an important benchmark of the Romanian national movement.

Essential

- ❖ Romanian medieval culture had a Byzantine character;
- ❖ Humanism was represented by scholars such as Nicolaus Olahus and Dimitrie Cantemir, who wrote *Descriptio Moldaviae* and *The History of the Growth and Decay of the Othman Empire*;
- ❖ The Enlightenment was represented by the Transylvanian School, whose members brought arguments for the equality of rights between Romanians and the other nations of Transylvania.

Vocabulary

- ∞ **letopiseț** = a chronicle or annals of events in history;
- ∞ **Psalter** = The Book of Psalms consists of 150 songs and prayers referred to individually as psalms and referenced by chapter and verse;
- ∞ **Cyrillic** = an alphabet developed in the Bulgarian Empire at the school of Preslav for Slavic languages, named in honor of St. Cyril and Methodius, who had earlier created the Glagolitic alphabet;
- ∞ **Old Church Slavonic** = the first Slavic literary language, standardized by the monks St. Cyril and Methodius in the IXth century.

To know more...

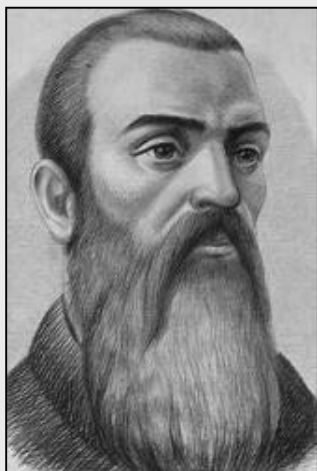
Read the first text in Romanian, **The letter of Neacșu of Câmpulung**:

"To the most wise and noble and honoured and by God gifted master Hanăș Bengner [that is, Johannes Benkner] from Brașov, much health from Neacșu from Dăgopole [Câmpulung].

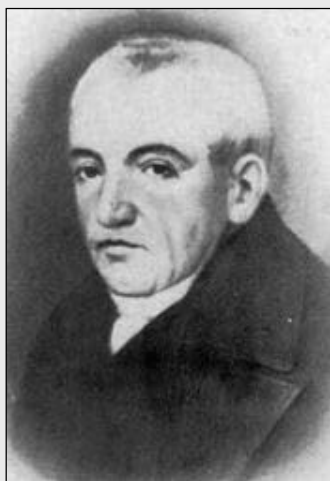
And so I let you know of the deeds of the Turks, as I have heard that the emperor [that is, Sultan Suleyman the Magnificent] has left Sofia, and that must be true, and went up the Danube.

And so You should know that a man from Nicopolis came to me and told me they saw with their own eyes that those ships which you know about have sailed up the Danube.

Ion Neculce



Petru Maior



And so you should know that they are taking 50 men from each town to help on the ships.

And so you should know that some experts from Tsarigrad [that is, Istanbul] realized how to make the ships to move past that tight place which you know too.

And so I tell you about the deed of Mahamet beg, as I heard from neighbouring boyars and from my son-in-law Negre, that the emperor gave Mahamet beg freedom to pass through Wallachia [Țeara Rumânească, lit. "the Romanian land", this being also the first mention of the name "Romania" in a Romanian text] wherever he pleases.

And so you should know that our Basarab too is fearful of that thief Mahamet beg, even more so than you.

And so I'm telling you as my superior about what I have found out. I am telling you, and you are wise and you should keep these words for yourself, so that no many people know, and you should take proper guard.

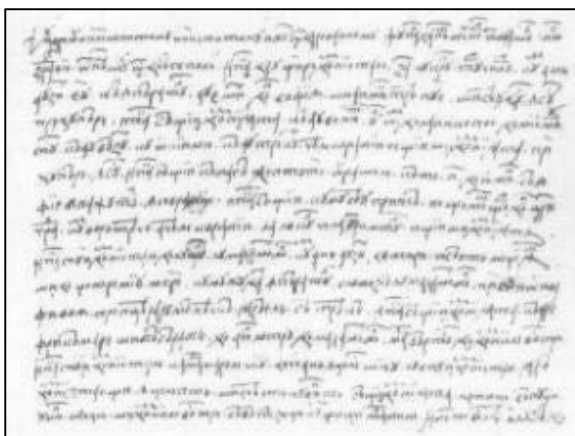
And may God bring you happiness. Amen."

What does the letter describe? Does it have a literary or political character? What can you appreciate about the style of the letter?

Applications

1. What was the character of Romanian medieval culture?
2. When did the Romanian language start being used?
3. What languages were used for writing in the beginning?
4. What is the first writing in Romanian?
5. Name one representative of humanism from the Romanian space and one of his works.
6. Who wrote the first poetry in Romanian?
7. What helped the apparition of the Transylvanian School?
8. What was the mission of the Transylvanian school?
9. Write a 100-150 word essay about Romanian culture during the XVth-XVIIIth centuries, mention the Slavonic literature, the first writings in Romanian, and representatives of humanism and discuss the context of the apparition of the Transylvanian school and its mission.

Letter of Neacșu of Câmpulung, manuscript



First Romanian school, XVIth cen., Șcheii Brașovului



Lesson 16. THE PHANARIOTS

Around the XVIIIth century there were six Russo-Turkish wars. Their outcomes were important for the fate of the Romanian principalities (also called Danubian Principalities):

- ✦ 1699, **Treaty of Karlowitz**: the beginning of the decadence of the Ottoman Empire;
- ✦ 1718, **Treaty of Passarowitz**: the Habsburgs took control of Oltenia and Banat;
- ✦ 1739, **Peace of Belgrade**: Oltenia was returned to Țara Românească;
- ✦ 1774, **Peace of Kuciuk-Kainargi**: Bukovina is annexed by the Habsburgs;
- ✦ 1802, **The Hatt-i Sharif**: the Ottoman Porte confirmed the autonomy of Țara Românească and Moldova;
- ✦ 1812, **Peace of Bucharest**: Russia annexes east Moldova, known as Bessarabia;
- ✦ 1826, **Akkerman Convention**: native Romanian rulers return to the thrones of the principalities, the beginning of the Russian protectorate over Țara Românească and Moldova.
- ✦ 1829, **Peace of Adrianople**: affirmed the strong position of Russia in the Romanian principalities, freedom of Romanian trade, introduction of the Organic Regulation (Regulamente Organice), first Romanian constitutions;
- ✦ 1849, **Balta Liman Convention**: the occupation of the Principalities after the 1848 revolutions.

Vasile Ursu Nicola (Horea)



Objectives

- ✦ to understand the nature of the Phanariot rule;
- ✦ to know the reforms undertaken by Phanariot rulers;
- ✦ to appreciate the development of culture during the Phanariot period;

Information

During the XVIIIth century period the rulers in Wallachia and Moldavia were the **Phanariots**, the first Phanariot leader being Nicolae Mavrocordat, later followed by his son, Constantin, in both Țara Românească and Moldova.

Nicolae and Constantin Mavrocordat



While connected with the very first administrative **reforms**, the Phanariots generally had to rely on spoliation, and coincided with a disastrous stage in the countries' history, given that the two principalities became a major theatre of war in a series of confrontations between Russian, Habsburg, and Ottoman forces.

Reforms dealt with: the abolition of serfdom (instead, the peasant had to work for their lords for 12 days/year in Țara Românească and 24 days/year in Moldova = **clacă, corvée**), the standardization of taxes and law, and the introduction of salaries.

The high taxation, deprivations, wars and pillaging during this hundred years led to a substantial deterioration of the quality of economic and cultural life, and to a decrease of population by 30%. The following century the population would quadruple.

Exploitation, corruption, and the Porte's policy of rapidly replacing Phanariot princes wreaked havoc on the principalities' social and economic conditions. The boyars became sycophants; severe exactions

The **Revolt of Horea, Cloșca and Crișan** in Transylvania was a famous peasant revolt of the period. The rebels seized Zarand, and the peasants of Hunedoara and Arad counties, supported by peasants and miners of other regions, also rose in rebellion. On November 21, Crișan, acting on behalf of Horea, the main leader of the uprising, presented the peasants' demands to the nobles: abolition of the nobility, division of the nobles' lands among the peasants, and equal taxation.

Ion Oargă (Cloșca)



On Nov. 23, 1784, the emperor ordered the dispatch of regular troops, who brutally suppressed the uprising in early 1785. Crișan hanged himself in prison with his own shoe laces, while Horea and Cloșca were cruelly broken on the wheel. After the defeat of the uprising, Joseph II was forced to issue a decree in 1785 abolishing serfdom. The act was repealed five years later.

Gheorghe Crișan



and heavy labour obligations forced the peasantry to the brink of starvation; and foreigners monopolized trade.

In culture, many Greek schools appeared in the principalities and in 1818 the **first Romanian language college** was founded in Bucharest by Gheorghe Lazăr and Ion Heliade Rădulescu. Anton Pann was a successful novelist, Ienăchiță Văcărescu wrote the first Romanian grammar, and his nephew, Iancu Văcărescu, is considered to be the first important Romanian poet.

The flight of Prince Mavrogenes as Habsburg troops approach Bucharest



Fashion changed as the wives of the boyars quickly adopted the newest trends in Paris, while in the same period of the XVIIIth century their husbands continued to wear the classic oriental costume as a sign of their high social rank. Another factor that contributed in this matter was the opening of the first Foreign Embassies in Țara Românească and Moldova. This led to Romanian nobility imitating the ambassadors and their courts in fashion, manners and even architecture and cuisine.

The concept of a **national state** emerged among the Romanians, as among many other peoples of Europe. Defining themselves against the nearby Slavs, Germans, and Hungarians, the nationalist Romanians looked for models of nationality in the other Latin countries, notably France. After the end of the Phanariot epoch, various families of Phanariot ancestry in both Țara Românească and Moldavia identified themselves as Romanian, and remained present in Romanian society: Rosetti, Ghica, Văcărescu.

Essential

- ❖ The Phanariots were rulers who came from Phanar, the Greek quarter of Istanbul;
- ❖ The Phanariots introduced some reforms such as the abolition of serfdom and the standardization of taxes and laws;
- ❖ Culturally, the period saw the rise of French culture and the emergence of the concept of national state.

Ienăchiță Văcărescu



Ion Heliade Rădulescu



Welcoming the British ambassador at
Curtea Nouă, circa 1795



Vocabulary

- ∞ **Porte** = the court or government of the Ottoman Empire, short from the Sublime Porte;
- ∞ **corvée** = an obligation imposed on inhabitants of a district to perform services, as repair of roads, bridges, or agricultural works, for little or no remuneration;
- ∞ **sycophant** = a person who uses flattery to win favour from individuals wielding influence.

To know more...



An important phenomenon of the Phanariot age was the apparition and spread of **haiduci**. The haiduc was an outlaw, a romanticized hero figure who would fight the Ottomans and the Habsburgs and reward the poor people, similarly to Robin Hood. In reality they were both guerrilla fighters and bandits equally. Famous haiduci were Baba Novac, Iancu Jianu, Radu Șapcă, Toma Alimoș, etc. Well known movies were made about them: *Haiducii lui Șaptecai* (1970), *Răzbunarea haiducilor* (1968), *Haiducii* (1966), *Pintea* (1976).

Applications

1. Where did the Phanariots come from?
2. Name one Phanariot leader.
3. Name two reforms of the Phanariots.
4. Provide two reasons why the Phanariot age meant a deterioration of economic and cultural life.
5. Who founded the first Romanian language college?
6. Name an important Romanian poet of the Phanariot age.
7. Which Western country became a model for Romanians at the end of the Phanariot period?
8. How did foreign embassies influence Romanian boyars?
9. Write a 100-150 word essay about the Phanariot age, mention the features of the period, reforms, reasons for decadence, culture, education, fashion, and the emergence of the concept of national state.

Lesson 17. THE REVOLUTION OF TUDOR VLADIMIRESCU

Reform movements

In Țara Românească, Ion Câmpineanu, leader of "National Party" (Partida Națională) issued two documents requesting the reorganization of the state: the Union and Independence Act and the Special Act for the Appointment of the Sovereign of the Romanians. Other important organizations were the Frăția (Brotherhood) society in Bucharest and the Society of Romanian Students in Paris. In Moldova, Ioniță Tăutu led the Cărvunari movement, proposing a constitution based on equality before law and the separation of powers in the state.

Tudor Vladimirescu



Alexandru Ipsilanti



Objectives

- to understand the causes of the revolution of 1821;
- to be familiar with the actions of Tudor Vladimirescu;
- to identify the effects of the revolution.

Information

At the beginning of the XIXth century the Romanian principalities were in a deep crisis due to the Phanariots: there were high taxation, lack of autonomy and territorial losses. After the death of Domn Alexandru Șuțu in 1821, the revolution broke out in Oltenia. The revolutionaries were mostly peasants and petty boyars, under the leadership of **Tudor Vladimirescu**, an experienced officer.

His goals were to improve the status of the commoners and to obtain more political rights for the small nobility. Vladimirescu established an alliance with the **Eteria**, the Greek national resurgence movement of Alexandru Ipsilanti. In order to win the trust of the people, Tudor Vladimirescu issued the **Padeș** Proclamation (23 January), promising all those who join him membership in the National Assembly (*Adunarea Norodului*).

Contrary to their hopes, the Russian Czar did not support Vladimirescu nor Ipsilanti, so both movements began faltering. Having arrived in Bucharest, Vladimirescu issued the **Requests of the Romanian People** (*Cererile norodului românesc*) asking for less taxes and a general reform and abolition of feudal privileges.

The intervention of the Ottomans stopped any reform. Suspected of collaborating with the Ottomans, Tudor Vladimirescu was arrested and **executed in Târgoviște** at the orders of Ipsilanti. His legacy lived on as his revolution sparked off the movements for national unity and modernisation of the XIXth century. The most important consequence was the return of Romanian native rulers (*domni pământeni*): Grigore IV Ghica in Țara Românească, Ioniță Sandu Sturdza in Moldova.

Essential

- ❖ High taxation, lack of autonomy and territorial losses caused the 1821 revolution;
- ❖ Tudor Vladimirescu proposed an extensive reform program but his plans failed due to Ottoman intervention and betrayal;
- ❖ The revolution brought the return of the Romanian rulers and encouraged other reform movements.

Revolutionaries crossing the Olt river



Grigore Dimitrie IV Ghica (1822-1828)



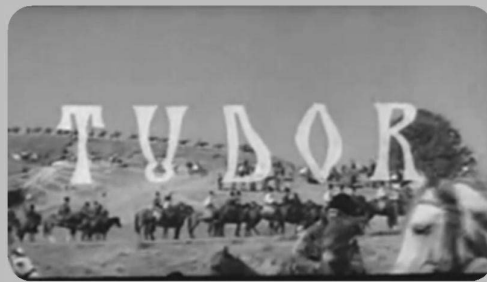
Ioan Sandu Sturdza



Vocabulary

- ⌘ **Eteria** = Society of Friends (Greek: Φιλική Εταιρεία or Εταιρεία των Φιλικών) was a secret XIXth-century organization whose purpose was to overthrow the Ottoman rule of Greece and establish an independent Greek state;
- ⌘ **Czar** = emperor of Russia;
- ⌘ **feudal privileges** = certain rights such as political rights or tax exception given only to the upper class members of the society, boyars, etc.;
- ⌘ **cărvunari** = an antiquated Romanian rendition of the Italian *carbonari*, also a denominator for radical political groups in both Romanian Principalities;
- ⌘ **separation of powers** = the political authority of the state is divided into legislative, executive and judicial powers. Each power is independent in order to promote liberty.

To know more...



The black and white classic movie "Tudor" (1962) is an accurate portrayal of the events of the revolution of 1821 in the Romanian principalities. Tudor Vladimirescu has "lent" his name to many institutions or public locations in Romania. Do you know any street, boulevard or school named after him?

Applications

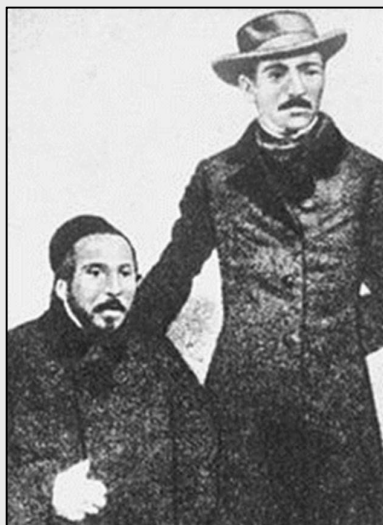
1. Name two reasons for the revolution of 1821.
2. Who was the leader of the 1821 revolution?
3. Where did the revolution start?
4. To which social classes did the revolutionaries belong?
5. Who were the allies of Tudor Vladimirescu?
6. Name one document issued during the revolution of 1821.
7. Which great power intervened against the revolution of 1821?
8. Name one effect of the revolution of Tudor Vladimirescu.
9. Write a 100-150 word essay about the revolution of Tudor Vladimirescu, mention its causes, the events of the revolution, its effects and other reform movements in the Romanian principalities.

Lesson 18. THE 1848 REVOLUTION

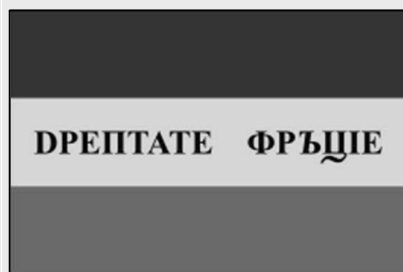
Mihail Kogălniceanu (1817-1891)



Ion Ghica (1816-1897) and Vasile Alecsandri (1821-1890)



Flag of the revolutionaries



Objectives

- to understand the causes of the 1848 revolution;
- to be acquainted with participants and documents of the revolution;
- to account for the effects of the 1848 revolution for the Romanian principalities.

Information

The revolutionary year 1848, known as the Spring of Nations, did not pass without consequence for the Romanian principalities. The causes of the revolutions are mainly twofold: **social** and **national**.

All social classes presented demands: nobles complained about the unrestricted power of the voivodes, the bourgeoisie wanted the development of capitalism, while the lower classes of peasants and workers were asking for lower taxes and better lives.

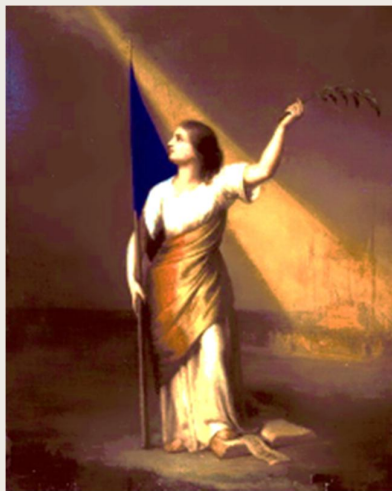
On the national aspect, politicians such as **Mihail Kogălniceanu** were asking for the union of Moldova and Țara Românească, while in Transylvania Romanians were asking for equal rights with the other nations of the Empire.

The revolution started in Moldova on 27 March 1848 at Hotel Petersburg in Iași with the presentation of the revolutionaries' requests. Among those involved were Alexandru Ioan Cuza and the famous writer **Vasile Alecsandri**. Although the requests were moderate, voivode Mihail Sturdza answered by arresting some of the participants, while the rest managed to escape.

In Transylvania the most important moment of the revolution was the National Assembly of Blaj, in 3-5 and 15-17 May 1848, when Simion Bărnițiu, Avram Iancu, Gheorghe Barițiu and many others assumed the **National Petition**. It included requests for the rights of the Romanian within the Habsburg Empire, but the Diet of Cluj instead voted the union of Transylvania with Hungary. This prompted a conflict between the Romanian and Hungarian revolutionaries, which was mediated by Nicolae Bălcescu. Avram Iancu led the Romanian forces in the Apuseni Mountains, but in a short time both revolutionary movements were crushed by the Habsburg army.

In Țara Românească the highpoint was the **Proclamation of Islaz** of 9 June 1848. Ion Heliade Rădulescu presented it to the public. It was radical, asking for independence and the organization of Romania into a republic. Voivode Gheorghe Bibescu left the country and a provisional revolutionary government was installed. It adopted the tricolour red-yellow-blue flag and the motto "Dreptate și frăție!" Confronted with the hostility of some boyars as well as that of the Ottoman Empire, the government did not last. On 13 September 1848, the company of Captain

Rosenthal - *Romania Breaking off Her Chains on the Field of Liberty*



Ottoman envoy Süleyman Paşa entering Bucharest in August 1848



Avram Iancu (1824-1872)



Pavel Zăgănescu was crushed by the Ottoman army, thus bringing the end of the revolution.

Forty-eighters in Bucharest carrying the new national flag



Despite the revolution being defeated in all three countries, it showed that Romanians from Moldova, Transylvania and Țara Românească could work together for their common goals, thus setting the course for establishing of a modern united Romanian state.

Essential

- ❖ The causes of the 1848 revolution were mainly social and national;
- ❖ Revolutionaries such as Vasile Alexandri, Simion Bărnuțiu or Ion Heliade Rădulescu presented the moderate or radical requests in Iași, Blaj and Islaz;
- ❖ Despite the defeat of the revolution, it contributed to the later creation of a united and modern Romania.

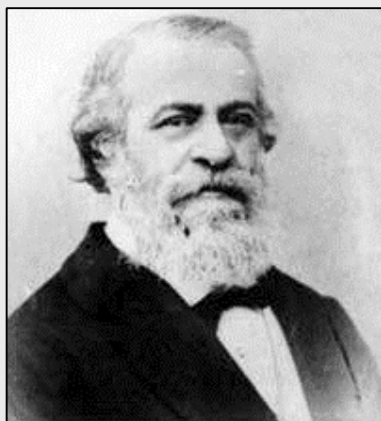
Vocabulary

- ⌘ **bourgeoisie** = a member of the middle class, shopkeeper or merchant, businessperson, with or without capitalist interests;
- ⌘ **capitalism** = an economic system in which investment in and ownership of the means of production, distribution, and exchange

Simion Bărnuțiu (1808-1864)



Eudoxiu Hurmuzaki (1812-1874)



Costantin Negruzzi (1808-1868)



of wealth is made and maintained chiefly by private individuals or corporations, especially as contrasted to cooperatively or state-owned means of wealth;

- ⌘ **Diet** = a legislative assembly in various countries;
- ⌘ **provisional** = serving for the time being only; existing only until permanently or properly replaced.

To know more...

Look at the following table including the main documents of the revolution:

Date and location	Title	Author
27 March, Iași	The Petition - Proclamation	Vasile Alecsandri
3-5 May, Blaj	National Petition	Simion Bărnuțiu
20 May, Cernăuți	The Country's Petition	E. Hurmuzaki
12 May, Brașov	Our Principles for the Reformation of the Fatherland	C. Negruzzi, Vasile Alecsandri
9 June, Islaz	Proclamation of Islaz	I. H. Rădulescu
15 June, Lugoj	The Petition of the Romanian Kin in Hungary and Banat	Eftimie Murgu
August, Cernăuți	The Wishes of the National Party in Moldova	M. Kogălniceanu

Can you identify any personality of Romanian literature in the table?

Applications

1. Mention the social causes of the 1848 revolution.
2. Mention the political causes of the 1848 revolution.
3. Where did the 1848 revolution start?
4. What was the outcome of the revolution in Moldova?
5. What was the most important moment of the revolution in Transylvania?
6. What was the character of the Proclamation of Islaz, moderate or radical?
7. Mention the name of two famous revolutionaries.
8. What was the motto of the revolutionary government in Țara Românească?
9. Write a 100-150 word essay about the 1848 revolution in the Romanian principalities. Mention the causes, the main events and actors in each principality and what was the final outcome of the revolution.

Lesson 19. ALEXANDRU IOAN CUZA

The Constitution of 1866:

- constitutional monarchy as the form of government;
- separation of powers;
- national sovereignty;
- throne was a hereditary office, women excluded;
- legislative power: Prince and Parliament (Assembly of Deputies & Senate);
- executive power: Prince, ministers.
- political regime: liberal, not democratic;
- limited vote (all men divided into four colleges based on wealth and social origins);
- The Prince's person was proclaimed "inviolable"; his acts were countersigned by a minister, who then became answerable;



The Prince's powers:

- head of the army;
- named and dismissed ministers;
- sanctioned and promulgated laws;
- named men to all public functions;
- signed treaties and conventions with foreign countries;
- conferred military ranks and decorations;
- coined money;
- opened and closed sessions of Parliament.



Carol I's titles :

Domnitor/Prince, 1866-1878
Royal Highness, 1878-1881
King, 1881-1914.



Alexandru Ioan Cuza (1820-1873)



Objectives

- to acknowledge 24 January 1859 as the date of the unification of Țara Românească and Moldova;
- to understand Al. I. Cuza's role as founder of modern Romania;
- to know why Al. I. Cuza was replaced by a Hohenzollern in 1866.

Information

After the end of the Crimean War, the European powers had to consider the wish of the Romanians to unite in a single state. Thus, the Paris Convention allowed the convocation of the **Ad-Hoc Divans**, assemblies where the Romanians could express their national wishes. The divans approved the union of the two principalities, and, with the support of European powers such as France, elections were held in 1859, resulting in the double election of Alexandru Ioan Cuza as voivode of Moldova and Țara Românească on **24 January**.

Proclamation of the Moldo-Wallachian Union, painting by Theodor Aman



Al. I. Cuza set off to build modern Romania by introducing many **reforms** with the help of his minister, **Mihail Kogălniceanu**: the establishment of the national symbols of Romania, the unification of the army, customs and treasury, the creation of a Civil Code, the foundation of the first universities in Bucharest and Iași, the setting up of Bucharest as capital. He also undertook the overlong mission of obtaining the recognition of the union from the great European powers.

The law for **secularization** gave the state the vast lands of the monasteries, which in turn allowed the passing of the **rural law**. Every peasant received land according to how many cattle he had: pâlmași (did

Elena Cuza (1825-1909)



Carol I of Romania (1839-1914)



Queen Elisabeta of Romania (1843-1916)



not own any animals, received small plots), mijlocași (medium plots) and frunțași (large plots of land). In order to be able to pass the rural law, Al. I. Cuza had to organize a coup d'état on 2 May 1864, as the great nobles were reluctant to give up their lands. The rural law had positive effects like the abolishment of the corvée, but peasants accumulated debt and, in time, land ownership became a problem again.



The law of **public instruction** introduced by Cuza made education until grade four obligatory and free. This measure increased literacy but many children could not attend school because they did not afford any books or were needed as workforce in their parents' farmhouses.

Alexandru Ioan Cuza's daring reform plans attracted the enmity of the conservative and radical politicians, who formed the "monstrous coalition" which forced the voivode to abdicate on the night between 10/11 February 1866. Their argument was that of giving the throne of Romania to a dynasty of European prestige. Philip of Flanders refused the throne of Romania, but it was accepted by **Carol of Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen**. After approval by plebiscite, on 10 May **Carol I** was sworn in as constitutional monarch under a new constitution.

Essential

- ❖ On 24 January 1859 Țara Românească and Moldova were united under the same voivode: Alexandru Ioan Cuza;
- ❖ Cuza introduced many reforms: secularization law, rural law, public instruction law, etc.;
- ❖ In 1866 Cuza was replaced by a coup d'état which brought Carol I on the throne as a constitutional monarch.

Vocabulary

Cuza Museum in Ruginoasa, Iași



Coat of arms of united Romania



Barbu Catargiu, first Romanian prime-minister (1807-assassinated 1862)



- ⌘ **ad-hoc** = Latin for “to this”, for a particular purpose only; lacking generality;
- ⌘ **divan** = any council, committee, or commission;
- ⌘ **Civil Code** = collection of laws dealing with private law, introduced by Napoleon in France for the first time;
- ⌘ **secular** = of or pertaining to worldly things or to things that are not regarded as religious, spiritual, or sacred; temporal;
- ⌘ **coup d'état** = a sudden and decisive action in politics, especially one resulting in a change of government illegally or by force;
- ⌘ **abdication** = to renounce or give up (a throne, power, responsibility, rights, etc.);
- ⌘ **plebiscite** = a direct vote by the electorate of a state, region, etc, on some question of usually national importance;
- ⌘ **constitutional monarchy** = a monarchy governed according to a constitution that limits and defines the powers of the sovereign.

To know more...



The movie “Rug și flacăra” (The Stake and the Flame, 1980) is set during the age of Alexandru Ioan Cuza, concentrating on the involvement of the Freemasonry in the national movements of the XIXth century. A character of popular culture that is also associated with the union of Alexandru Ioan Cuza is *Moș Ion Roată*, who appears in a few short stories by Ion Creangă.

Applications

1. When did the union of Țara Românească and Moldova take place?
2. Who was elected voivode of Țara Românească and Moldova on 24 January 1859?
3. Which prime minister helped Al. I. Cuza in his reforms?
4. Mention two reforms of Alexandru Ioan Cuza.
5. Mention two laws passed by Alexandru Ioan Cuza.
6. Mention one positive effect of the rural law of Al. I. Cuza.
7. What was the name of the coalition that overthrew Al. I. Cuza on 11 February 1866?
8. Who became domnitor/prince of Romania in 1866?
9. Write a 100-150 word essay about Alexandru Ioan Cuza and his reforms. Mention the union, reforms, important laws and for what purpose was Al. I. Cuza forced to abdicate.

Lesson 20. BESSARABIA, BUKOVINA, TRANSYLVANIA

Coat of arms of Bessarabia



Bust of Alexei Mateevici (1888-1917)



Coat of arms of Bukovina



Objectives

- to understand the nature of the Russian rule in Bessarabia;
- to appreciate the activity of the Romanian National Party in Transylvania;
- to be familiar with the status of Bukovina in the Habsburg Empire.

Information

Bessarabia became part of the Russian Empire in 1812. Initially the province could enjoy autonomy but, in time, the policy of Russification and denationalization became very harsh for Romanians. More so, Bessarabia remained one of the least developed areas from Europe, with technologies such as telegraph poles or railroads arriving there very late. In 1867 the Romanian language was outlawed in church and schools. Four years later Bessarabia became a gubernia, a Russian province. Russians, Ukrainians and Germans were moved there while Romanians were encouraged to move to other parts of Russia. Despite these conditions, patriots such as Vasile Stroescu, Alexandru Hașdeu or **Alexe Mateevici** (author of the anthem "Limba noastră" /"Our Language") did what they could for their nationality.

After 1848 Bukovina became an autonomous Duchy dependent to Vienna. The Habsburg state led a policy of Germanization against the Romanian church and school. The **Romanian National Party** of Bukovina or cultural societies such as Dacia or Concordia, and illustrious scholars like Sextil Pușcariu or Ion Nistor, united their efforts to keep Romanian culture and conscience alive in Bukovina.

Transylvania underwent three types of regimes:

- the neo-absolutist rule after 1848 included harsh conditions and lack of autonomy;
- the liberal regime between 1860-1867 allowed Romanians to gain important political, economic and cultural rights;
- the dual Austro-Hungarian regime, lost autonomy until World War 1.

Organizations such as **ASTRA** and personalities like Andrei Șaguna did as much as they could to help Romanian culture. The political movement of the Romanians wanted the return of the autonomy of Transylvania: in 1868 Romanians issued the Blaj Pronouncement while in 1892 the Memorandum was published. The authors of the Memorandum were all arrested (Ioan Rațiu, Vasile Lucaciu and many others), which attracted the sympathy of all Europe and the intervention of King Carol I. The **National Party of the Romanians in Transylvania, Banat and Hungary** initially protested against the situation in Transylvania by refusing to participate in elections (political passivism).

Ion Nistor (1876-1962)



Metropolitan Andrei Șaguna (1809-1873)



The political life of Romanians in the Old Kingdom (Vechiul Regat, i.e. Țara Românească and Moldova) has been dominated by two important factions:

National Liberal Party, 1875

-members: I.C. Brătianu, C.A. Rosetti, D.A. Sturdza, Ion I.C. Brătianu;
-publications: *Viitorul*, *Românul*;
-wanted increased democratization, the rule of law, a radical solution for the problem of agricultural lands, national capital ("prin noi înșine", "through ourselves").

After the turn of the century the strategy was changed to political activism, the Romanians wanting to take part in the debates of the Parliament of Budapest for the improvement of their conditions.

The signers of the Memorandum



Protest in Bucharest supporting the Memorandum, June 1982



Essential

- ❖ In the XIXth century Bessarabia was turned into a Russian gubernia and Romanian was forbidden;
- ❖ Bukovina became an autonomous Duchy of Austria and had to face a Germanization policy;
- ❖ In Transylvania, organizations such as ASTRA and the Romanian National Party activated for the return of the lost autonomy.

Vocabulary

∞ **duchy** = the territory ruled by a duke or duchess.

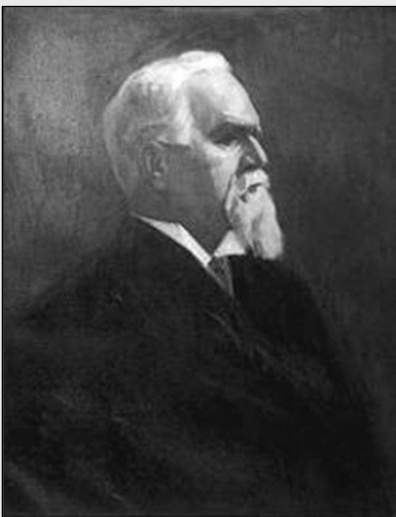
C. A. Rosetti (1816-1885)



Conservative Party, 1880

-members: Lascăr Catargiu, Titu Maiorescu, Petre P. Carp;
-publications: *Timpul*, *Epoca*;
-included the *Junimea* circle;
-defended the interests of the great land owners, welcomed foreign capital, slow reform ("pași mărunți", "small steps").

Titu Maiorescu (1840-1917)



∞ **neo-absolutism** = The period 1849–60 in the history of Austria is called the Neoabsolutist era because it was the last effort by an Austrian emperor to provide good government by relying solely on bureaucratic effectiveness. Most measures taken were reactionary.

∞ **ASTRA** = Asociația Transilvană pentru Literatura Română și Cultura Poporului Român (abbreviated ASTRA; in English, The Transylvanian Association for Romanian Literature and the Culture of the Romanian People) is a cultural association founded in 1861 in Sibiu. Its first president was the Romanian Orthodox Metropolitan of Sibiu — Andrei Șaguna. Its vicepresident was the Greek-Catholic priest Timotei Cipariu, and George Barițiu was secretary.

To know more...



The movie *Ion: Blestemul pământului, blestemul iubirii* (Ion: the Curse of the Land, the Curse of Love, 1980) presents the struggle of a Romanian peasant from Transylvania between his desire for land and his desire for passion. It is a convincing screening of the daily life of a person living outside the borders of Romania. Set in the 1910's, it is inspired by the novel of the same name written by Liviu Rebreanu.

Applications

1. When did Bessarabia become part of the Russian Empire?
2. Was Bessarabia a developed or undeveloped region?
3. Was the Romanian language allowed in the churches or schools of Bessarabia?
4. Mention one Romanian scholar from Bessarabia.
5. What was the status of Bukovina in the Habsburg Empire?
6. What kind of policy did the Habsburgs conduct in Bukovina about the Romanians?
7. Mention one Romanian political or cultural association of Transylvania.
8. Mention one political document asking for the autonomy of Transylvania.
9. Write a 100-150 word essay about the Romanians in Bessarabia, Bukovina and Transylvania in the XIXth century. Mention their hardships, any cultural or political associations and important personalities.

Lesson 21. THE INDEPENDENCE WAR

Grand Duke Nicholas of Russia



Valter Mărăcineanu (1840-1877)



George Șonțu (1851-1877)



Objectives

- to understand the context of the Independence War of 1877-1878;
- to identify events related to the Independence War;
- to acknowledge 9 May 1877 as national independence day.

Information

The Romanian war of independence started in the context of the Oriental Question, that is, the fight between the European powers for the territories of the declining Ottoman Empire. The Russian Empire started a war against the Ottoman Empire, wishing to "free" the Orthodox people of the Balkans.

On 4 April 1877 a convention was signed, allowing Russian troops to transit Romania. Soon, the Ottoman Empire responded by bombing the Romanian towns along the Danube. As retaliation, Foreign Minister Mihail Kogălniceanu declared the independence of Romania on **9 May 1877** in the Romanian parliament. The date is celebrated today as the national independence day.

As the conflict between the Russians and the Ottomans was raging, **King Carol I of Romania** received a call for help from Grand Duke Nicholas, the commander of the Russian Imperial Army, who had become stuck at the siege of Plevna. The Romanian army crossed the Danube, and King Carol I assumed the command of the siege of **Plevna**. The Romanians managed to capture the Grivița redoubt, but with great losses, including Major George Șonțu and Captain Valter Mărăcineanu. After taking Rahova and surrounding Plevna, Osman Pasha surrendered the fortress to Colonel Mihail Cerchez. The relatively ill equipped Romanian army fought bravely at **Smârdan** and **Vidin**. Eventually, the Ottoman Empire was worn out and sued for peace with the Russians.

Initially, the Russians quickly had the Ottomans sign the Treaty of San Stefano, which did not take into consideration the wishes of the other great powers. A second treaty was convened at **Berlin**, on 1 July 1878. The independence of Romania was recognized on the condition that Romania gave civil and political rights to all citizens irrespective of their religion. **Dobrogea** was given to Romania as well, but South Bessarabia (the counties Ismail, Bolgrad and Cahul) was returned to Russia.

The recognition of Romania's national independence raised the country's international prestige and opened a favourable perspective for the development of the country's economy with the help of the newly returned territory of Dobrogea. The modernization of the state as well as the struggle for national unity received a new lease of life after the war of independence.

Siege of Plevna (detail)



Carol I at Plevna



The fall of Plevna



South Dobrogea



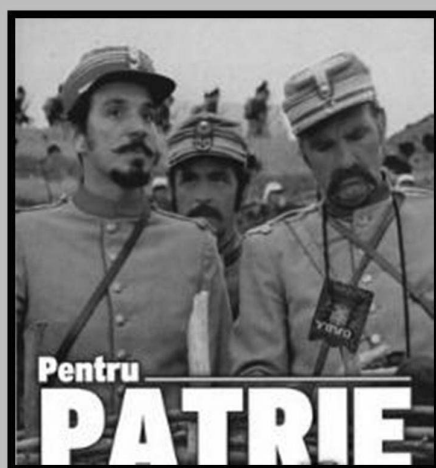
Essential

- ❖ The independence war began in the context of the Russo-Turkish war in the Balkans;
- ❖ King Carol I successfully commanded the Romanian army at the siege of Plevna. Other victories were Smârdan and Vidin.
- ❖ 9 May 1877 remains the day of national independence for Romania. The Treaty of Berlin recognized the independence of Romania and “rewarded” it with the return of Dobrogea.

Vocabulary

∞ **redoubt** = a small, often temporary, defensive fortification;

To know more...



The independence war has been depicted in many movies. More so, the first ever movie filmed in Romania illustrated the same events. The *Războiul independenței* (Independence War, 1977) series and *Pentru patrie* (For the Fatherland, 1977) movies were both filmed in order to celebrate 100 years of independence and represent the events in excellent detail.

Applications

1. When did the Independence War take place?
2. What was the international context of Independence War?
3. Why did the Ottomans bomb Romanian towns after 4 April 1877?
4. Who asked for the help of King Carol of Romania?
5. Which redoubt near Plevna was taken with the help of the Romanian army?
6. Mention one Romanian victim of the Independence War.
7. Where were the peace treaties signed after the war?
8. Romania received Dobrogea, but what territory did it give up?
9. Write a 100-150 word essay about the Independence War, mention the international context, the events of the war, the peace treaties and the war's consequences.

Lesson 22. THE FIRST WORLD WAR

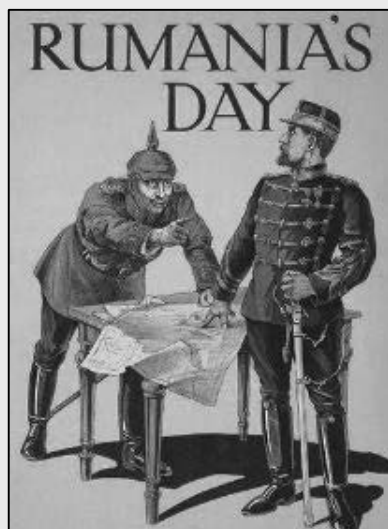
King Ferdinand of Romania
(1914-1927)



Queen Marie of Romania
tending the wounded



British poster welcoming Romania on the
side of the Entente



Objectives

- to understand the causes of World War I;
- to appreciate the reasons for Romania's implication in WWI;
- to know the major events related to Romania's participation in WWI.

Information

World War I was the most destructive conflict humanity had ever known, lasting from 1914 to 1918. Its causes can be divided in long term causes and short term causes.

Long term causes: the two alliances system (**Entente:** France, Russia, Britain; **Central Powers:** Germany, Austria-Hungary, Italy), the world politics of Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany, the rise of Germany as a world power and its wish for colonies and the arms race.

Short term causes: the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand in Sarajevo on 28 June 1914, Germany's full-fledged backing of Austria's threats against Serbia, and Britain's indecision regarding the war.

When WWI broke out Romania was courted by both alliances. There was an existing secret treaty signed in 1883 with Austria-Hungary, but because the politicians of the time could not agree on a decision, the King decided to hold the country in an **armed neutrality**. Romania had just obtained **South Dobrogea** from Bulgaria following the Second Balkan War of 1913 and it was keen on keeping it. In September 1914 King Carol I died and was succeeded by **King Ferdinand**.

After two years of neutrality, Romania signed an alliance treaty with the **Entente** on 27 August 1916, her rights over Transylvania, Banat and Bukovina being guaranteed by her allies.

Despite the eagerness of the army, Romania was almost isolated on the Eastern front with only Russia as her immediate ally. The offensive in Transylvania progressed well, but after the defeat at Turtucaia, in Dobrogea, Romania became surrounded and the King and government had to move to Iași. After a French mission led by General Berthelot helped the army recover, Generals Al. Averescu, Eremia Grigorescu and C. Cristescu successfully led the Romanian army at the battles of **Mărăști**, **Mărășești** and **Oituz** in July-August 1917.

Despite its ability to resist, the fall of Russia following the Bolshevik Revolution also led to Romania's surrender. A very disadvantageous peace treaty was signed at **Bucharest-Bufta** on 7 May 1918. Still, the war was going against the Central Powers especially after the United States joined the Entente. Days before the capitulation of Germany, Romania declared war again and was thus counted among the winning countries. This allowed that the day of **1 December 1918**, the

Mausoleum at Mărășești



Ecaterina Teodoroiu (1894-1917)



World War I artillery in Dobrogea



day when Bessarabia, Bukovina and Transylvania had proclaimed their union to Romania, became the national day in the present.

In Bessarabia, Sfatul Țării, the National Assembly (parliament) of the Governorate (gubernia, province), including personalities like Ion Inculeț, first proclaimed the independence of the province, and then, on **27 March 1918**, decided on the union between Romania and Bessarabia.

Bukovina requested the help of the Romanian army after the outbreak of the Bolshevik revolution in Russia. The General Congress of Bukovina declared the unconditional and eternal union with Romania on **28 November 1918**, following a declaration by Iancu Flondor and Ion Nistor.

In Transylvania the Great National Assembly of Alba Iulia decided the union of the Romanians in Transylvania, Banat and Hungary to Romania on **1 December 1918**, according to the resolution presented by Vasile Goldiș. Representatives of the Romanian National Party and of the Social Democrat Party created the government (under Iuliu Maniu), and the institutions that would lead Transylvania in the following period.

Essential

- ❖ World War 1 was caused by the division of Europe into two hostile groups, the arms race, the desire for more colonies and the events in the Balkans in 1914;
- ❖ Romania joined WW1 after two years of neutrality, in the hope of taking back Transylvania;
- ❖ On 1 December 1918, celebrated as national day, the union of Bessarabia, Bukovina and Transylvania to Romania was accomplished.

Vocabulary

- ⌘ **Entente** = French for "understanding", "agreement";
- ⌘ **arms race** = competition between countries to achieve superiority in quantity and quality of military arms;
- ⌘ **South Dobrogea** = also called Quadrilater or Cadrilater, consisted of the Durostor and Caliacra counties (today, Silistra and Tolbukhin);
- ⌘ **Bolshevik** = a member of the more radical majority of the Social Democratic party of Russia, 1903–17, advocating immediate and forceful seizure of power by the proletariat; any communist.

To know more...

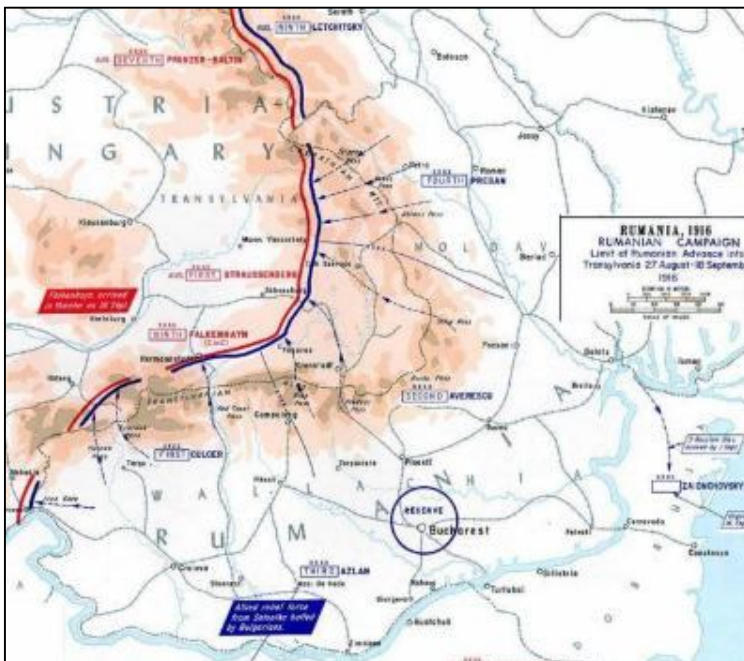
The Scottish Women's Hospitals in Romania during World War I



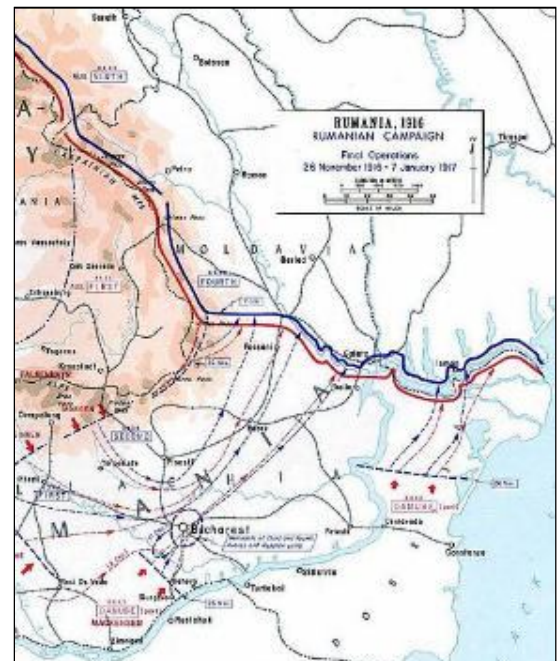
Signing the Treaty of Bucharest



Front in August 1916



Front in January 1917, notice the retreat



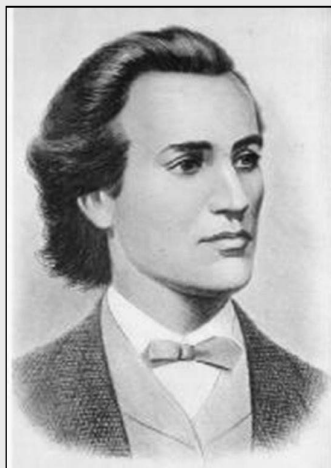
The documentary "România în Primul Război Mondial Cota 789 Ultima Redută" (Romania in World War One Hill 789 The Last Stronghold), filmed in collaboration with National Geographic Romania, is an excellent presentation of the events in Romania during 1914-1918, in English. It is a must watch for any student of Romanian history. It can be found on YouTube and other sites.

Applications

1. Name one long term cause of World War I.
2. Name one short term cause of World War I.
3. Why did Romania join the Entente in 1916?
4. Name one Romanian defeat in World War I.
5. When did the battles of Mărăști, Mărășești and Oituz take place?
6. Name one Romanian general of World War I.
7. Was the Peace of Bucharest-Buftea advantageous for Romania?
8. What's the national day of Romania?
9. Write a 100-150 word essay about World War I and Romania, mention its causes, who did Romania join and why, military events, the end of the war and talk about the national day of Romania and its significance.

Lesson 23. CULTURE IN THE XIXth CENTURY

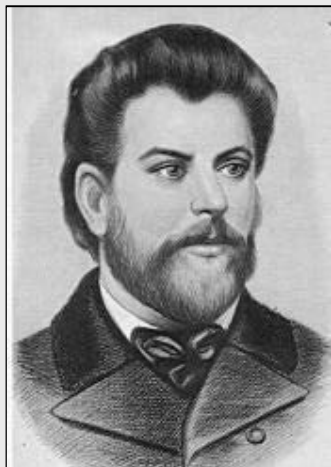
Mihai Eminescu (1850-1889)



The Lucifer (drawing from 1984 edition)



Ion Creangă (1837-1889)



Objectives

- to appreciate the importance of education in the XIXth century;
- to know one cultural current of the XIXth century;
- to be acquainted with one classical writer of Romanian literature.

Information

In the XIXth century, Romanian culture evolved towards a Western character, due to the influence of the Romanian intellectuals that had studied in Europe. Two great changes allowed the development of Romanian culture: the adoption of the current Latin alphabet and the establishment of the **national education system**.

Schools were quite few and often founded by the local rural community. Al. I. Cuza's educational reform greatly helped the spread of culture to rural areas, since going to school until grade 4 became obligatory and free. A pupil's timetable included catechism, Biblical history, reading and spelling, calligraphy and dictation, counting, grammar, but also practical economy. There were three "grades": *foarte bună* (very good), *bună* (good), and *de mântuială* (perfunctory).

European currents like Romanticism and Realism also reached Romania. The **Romantic** writers (V. Alecsandri), were inspired by the country's history, trying to produce models of moral behavior and patriotism. Romanticism reached its peak with Mihai Eminescu, famous author of *The Lucifer* and many other works, who was inspired by metaphysics, mythology and history.

In contrast to Romanticism, **Realism** concentrated more on the present and the social realities. Realism includes the great Romanian classics Ion Luca Caragiale, Ioan Slavici, Liviu Rebreanu, George Călinescu, and Marin Preda. I. L. Caragiale, playwright, poet, theatre manager and journalist, was a leading representative of local humour, and was part of *Junimea*, a very influential literary society. His satires were aimed at the local politicians and criticized the society of his times, although in later works he adopted the fantasy genre and also wrote historical fiction.

In 1907, the cultural world was shaken by the Romanian Peasants' Revolt, the last such major revolt in Europe. It became subject of one of the greatest interwar novels: *Răscoala* (The Revolt) by Liviu Rebreanu.

Painters such as Ștefan Luchian and composers like George Enescu provided the greatest contribution of Romania to XIXth century art.

Other cultural currents were *semănătorism* (literally, *sower-ism*) and *poporanism* (archaic word for *populism*). These traditional currents glorified the idyllic space of the Romanian village and believed capitalism would bring the end of the traditional Romanian rural community.

Ion Luca Caragiale (1852-1912)



D-I Goe... (Mr. Goe)



Liviu Rebreanu (1885-1944)



Răscoala, 1981 edition art



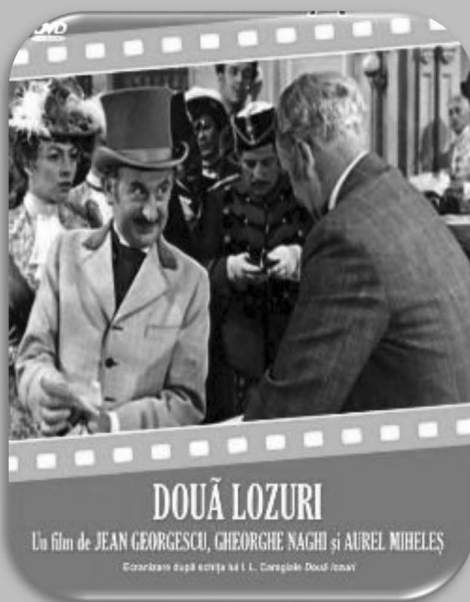
Essential

- ❖ The establishment of the national education system greatly helped Romanian culture;
- ❖ The two best represented currents of the century were Romanticism and Realism;
- ❖ Mihai Eminescu, a late Romantic, is the most appreciated Romanian poet of the period. Other great classics are Ion Luca Caragiale, Ion Creangă, etc.

Vocabulary

- ⌘ **catechism** = an elementary book containing a summary of the principles of the Christian religion, especially as maintained by a particular church, in the form of questions and answers;
- ⌘ **metaphysics** = the system of first principles and assumptions underlying an enquiry or philosophical theory;
- ⌘ **populism** = a political strategy based on a calculated appeal to the interests or prejudices of ordinary people.

To know more...

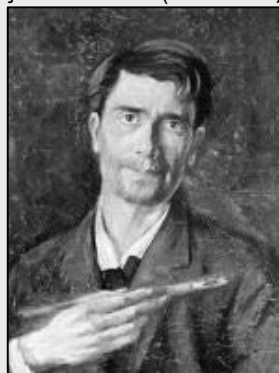


There are many screenings that may help you learn more about Romanian culture in the XIXth century. One of the most iconic ones is *Două Lozuri* (Two Lottery Tickets, 1957), after the original play by Ion Luca Caragiale. It is a satire of the high society on the whole. For the more traditional side of culture, *Baltagul* (The Hatchet, 1969), after the novel by Mihail Sadoveanu, introduces the viewer to rural Northern Moldova, where recently widowed Vitoria Lipan is searching for the bandits who slew her husband.

Applications

1. Which alphabet was used in late XIXth century Romania?
2. How do you think that education helped the spread of culture?

Stefan Luchian (1868-1917)



3. Name one subject studied by Romanian pupils in the XIXth century?
4. The results of the pupils were appreciated using which grades?
5. Name two important XIXth century currents.
6. Mihai Eminescu belonged to Romanticism or Realism?
7. Was Ion Luca Caragiale a Realist writer?
8. Name one Romanian composer or artist.
9. Write a 100-150 word essay about Romanian culture in the XIXth century. Discuss education, cultural currents, authors and their preferred subjects.

Mr. Goe (by I. L. Caragiale)

So that he could finally be promoted at the end of this school year, grandma, mommy and aunty Mitsa promised to take the young Goe to Bucharest on the King's anniversary, the 10th of May.

Little do we care if the three dames decide to leave their comfortable spot to come to the capital just to please their son and nephew. It suffices to say that in the early morning, on the central station's platform in the town of X, the dames, all dressed-up, along with the young Goe, are impatiently waiting for the fast train that is supposed to take them to Bucharest. It is true that once one has decided to assist to such an important national celebration, one must make an early start. The train that they are going to get reaches the north station at ten to eight a.m. Mr. Goe is impatient and he argues in a commanding voice:

"Grandma, why isn't it coming?... I want it to come!"

"It's coming, it's coming, chickabiddy!" the lady answers.

And she kisses the grandchild, then fixes his hat.

The young Goe is wearing a beautiful sailor suit and on his straw hat ribbon one can read the inscription *Le Formidable*; under the ribbon there's the train ticket, safely put by aunty Mitsa, 'cause "this is how men hold their ticket."

"See how nice he looks," says grandma, "with his little sailer suit on?"

"Mommy, didn't I tell you one doesn't say 'little sailer'?"

"Then what does one say?"

"Little soiler..."

"Well! You say what you please; I say it as I know it. This is what it was called back in my days, when this kids fashion first appeared – sailor."

"Can't you see you're both stupid?" the young Goe intervenes. "It's not called little sailer or little soiler..."

"Then what's it called, smart pants?" asks aunty Mitsa with an amused smile on her face. "Siler..."

"Well now! Not everybody went through school like you did!" says grandma, then kisses her grandson again and fixes his siler's hat.

But there's no more time for philological debate; the train is coming – and it doesn't stay for long.

The train is full. But thanks to the benevolence of some polite young men, who get off at a close-by station, the dames find some seats. The train has just left. Grandma makes the sign of the cross and then lights a cigarette... Goe doesn't want to enter the compartment; he wants to stay on the corridor, where all the men are.

"No, you're not supposed to stick your head out the window, little fellow!" one of the young men says to Goe as he pulls him away from the window.

"That's none of your business, ugly face!" says the little fellow, struggling.

And after making faces at the ugly guy, he's hanging himself with both hands from the brass rod and puts out his head again. But the ugly face doesn't get to reply before the little fellow pulls back his head and screams in a terrified voice:

"Mommy! Grandmaaa! Auntyyy!"

"What is it? What is it?" burst the ladies.

"Make it stop!" shouts Goe even louder, tramping his feet.

"My hat flew away! Make it stooooop!!!"

At the same time the conductor enters the carriage, in order to check out the new comers on the train.

"Tickets, please!"

The ladies show their tickets and try to explain to the conductor why is it that Goe can't do the same thing; because the ticket was tucked inside the hat's ribbon and if the hat flew away, of course that the ribbon and the ticket flew along. But still, he had a ticket...

"Cross my heart! I bought it myself!" says aunty Mitsa....

Read the continuation on the site of the Romanian Cultural Institute: <http://www.icr.ro/bucharest/tales-of-two-reigns-children-and-childhood-30-2007/mr-goe.html>

Lesson 24. SCIENCE IN THE XIXth CENTURY

Horse-drawn tram



Henri Coandă, engineer (1886-1972)



Spiru Haret, mathematician (1851-1912)



Objectives

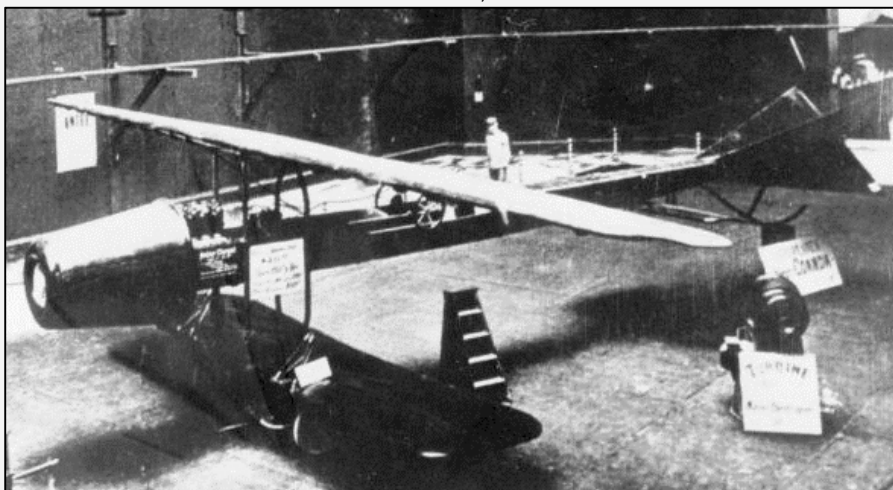
- to appreciate the development of science towards the end of the XIXth century;
- to identify two Romanian scientists of the period;
- to be acquainted with one Romanian invention of the period.

Information

The important discoveries and inventions in science during the modern age allowed industrialization to take place during the XIXth and XXth centuries. In Romania, the first railway was that between Bucharest and Giurgiu, opened in 1866. Earlier railways on current Romanian territory were those built between Oravița-Baziaș in 1854 in Transylvania, and the one between Constanța-Cernavodă in 1860 in Dobrogea.

A famous engineer was **Anghel Saligny**, who designed many railways as well as docks. Due to his efforts, the bridge at Cernavodă, crossing the Danube and linking Dobrogea to the rest of the kingdom, was inaugurated in 1895. Traian Vuia designed and built a self-propelling flying machine, while **Henri Coandă** invented the jet engine and built the first jet aircraft in the world. Another Romanian pioneer of aviation was Aurel Vlaicu, who built and flew his own plane.

Coandă aircraft, Paris 1910



In mathematics and physics important contributors were Spiru Haret, Gheorghe Țițeica and the Hungarian Bolyai János. The latter is considered the founder of non-Euclidean geometry. Geography was studied and developed by Gheorghe Vâlsan and Simion Mehedinți, while

Carol Davila, physician (1828-1884)



Nicolae Paulescu,
physiologist (1869-1931)



Nicolae Iorga, historian (1871-1940)



chemistry was developed by Petru Poni. Renowned scholars such as **Carol Davila**, Victor Babeş and Ion Cantacuzino have assured the prestige of Romanian medicine. Later, Nicolae Paulescu would be celebrated as the first scientist to discover insulin, which became vital in the treating of diabetes. Biology progressed due to the work of Grigore Antipa and Emil Racoviţă, the former being the founder of the natural sciences museum in Bucharest that still bears his name today, while the latter founded the scientific field of biospeleology. In agriculture, Ion Ionescu de la Brad was one of the first Romanians who was dedicated to modernizing and improving agricultural techniques.

The field of history was served by highly dedicated researchers such as Mihail Kogălniceanu, **Nicolae Iorga**, or the Saxon Georg D. Teutsch, who dedicated his life to the study of Transylvanian Saxons. Linguistics was developed by Bogdan Petriceicu Haşdeu, Ovid Densusianu and Sextil Puşcariu, who studied the orthography, grammar and history of language. In conclusion, despite the lack of resources and support from the state, Romanian scientists proved their talent and dedication through their various contributions to the development of civilization.

Essential

- ❖ Scientific discoveries and inventions helped the spread of industrialization;
- ❖ Among Romanian engineers, Henri Coandă stands out as the inventor of jet engines and the first builder of a jet aircraft;
- ❖ In medicine, Nicolae Paulescu discovered insulin, which is vital in the treatment of diabetes;
- ❖ In the humanities, Nicolae Iorga and B. P. Haşdeu, among many others, assured the thriving of history and linguistics.

Vocabulary

- ∞ biospeleology = the study of organisms living in caves;
- ∞ non-Euclidean geometry = any forms of geometry that contain a postulate (axiom) which is equivalent to the negation of the Euclidean parallel postulate.

To know more...

On 27 November 1895, Alfred Nobel signed his last will and testament, giving the largest share of his fortune to a series of prizes in Physics, Chemistry, Physiology or Medicine, Literature and Peace - the Nobel Prizes. They represent the highest honors to be obtained for accomplishments in science. Romania has three Nobel Prize laureates: Herta Müller, George Emil Palade and Elie Wiesel.

Simion Mehedinți,
geographer (1868-1962)



Grigore Antipa, biologist (1867-1944)



George Emil Palade is described as one of the most influential cell biologists ever and received his Nobel in 1974. The prize was granted for his innovations in electron microscopy and cell fractionation which together laid the foundations of modern molecular cell biology.



Elie Wiesel is a Romanian-born Jewish-American who became a worldwide famous professor and writer, publishing 57 books mainly based on his experience in the death camps of Auschwitz, Buna, and Buchenwald. He received the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1986.

Herta Müller is a Romanian-German novelist and recipient of the 2009 Nobel in Literature. Her works describe the effects of violence, cruelty and terror in the setting of Communist Romania under the repressive Securitate during the regime of Nicolae Ceaușescu.

Applications

1. What contributed to industrialization in the XIXth century?
2. Who designed the bridge at Cernavodă and when was it inaugurated?
3. What is Traian Vuia known for?
4. What did Henri Coandă invent?
5. Name one Romanian or Hungarian mathematician.
6. Name one Romanian who greatly contributed to the development of medicine.
7. Who discovered insulin?
8. Name one famous Romanian historian.
9. Write a 100-150 word essay about Science in the XIXth century. Discuss industrialization, engineers and their accomplishments, developments in mathematics, biology, geography, history, and linguistics.

Carol I bridge at Cernavodă, completed 1895 and now closed to traffic



Lesson 25. INTERWAR ROMANIA

King Ferdinand and Queen Marie at the coronation in Alba Iulia in 1922



Ion I. C. Brătianu (1864-1927)



Objectives

- to understand the historical term “Greater Romania”;
- to be acquainted with one Romanian politician from the interwar period;
- to identify one political or economic event of the interwar period;

Information

During the interwar period (1918-1939), Romania reached its greatest size in territory due to the Great Unification of 1 December 1918. Greater Romania incorporated a population of about 70% Romanians and 30% minorities, which included Hungarians, Germans, Ukrainians, Bulgarians, etc. Many laws were designed to accommodate the new residents of Romania. Two important reforms were applied immediately after the war in order to facilitate the union: **universal suffrage** for men and the application of the **agrarian reform** (1921).

The most important political parties were the **National Liberal Party** and the **National Peasants' Party**. There were also many regional parties (the Magyar Party, the Jewish Party, the German Party, etc). After 1930, due to the hardships of the worldwide economic crisis, extremist political parties appeared and grew: the National-Christian Defense League, the League of Archangel Michael (Iron Guard, guilty of assassinating two Romanian Prime-ministers: I. G. Duca and Armand Călinescu), and the Communist Party.

The first decade was dominated by the liberals, under Prime-minister **Ion I. C. Brătianu**, its greatest legacy being the adoption of the **1923 Constitution**. The National Peasants' Party, under **Iuliu Maniu**, governed during the period of the great economic crisis (1928-1933), a coincidence which contributed to them losing power. The next period was dominated by Prime-minister **Gh. Tătărescu**, who was concerned with the development of the national economy and industrialization.

King Ferdinand and Queen Marie ruled Romania between 1914 and 1927. After the union they were crowned at the Cathedral of Alba-Iulia, but their reign was marked by the dynastic crisis (1925-1930): Prince Carol gave up his right to inherit the crown, so a regency had to be appointed, since his son, Prince Mihai, was underage. After King Ferdinand's death in 1927, the Regency ruled until 1930, when Carol returned and was given the throne by the Parliament, while Mihai received the title of Great Voivode of Alba Iulia.

King **Carol II** thought little of the Liberals and wanted the monarchy to receive more and more power, and was also seeking wealth. An infamous *camarilla* quickly gathered around the king, who was always trying to divide political parties and slowly deprive them of power. Eventually, a crisis was reached in 1937 when no party got the

King Mihai (1927-1930, 1940-1947)



King Carol II (1930-1940)



Mamaia beach during the interwar



required 40% of votes in order to form a government. Carol II appointed Octavian Goga as Prime-minister, despite his party having won less than 10% of the votes. The crisis deepened and a national unity government was appointed next year. King Carol II profited of the crisis in order to outlaw political parties, abolish the constitution and take all the powers of the state upon himself. His **authoritarian regime** resembled Fascism in some points, but also encouraged an unexpected proliferation of Romanian culture.

In 1940, Romania was obligated by the Soviet Union to give up Bessarabia (27 June) and Herța county (according to the Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact). Soon, NW Transylvania was taken by Hungary following the Second **Vienna Diktat** (30 August), and Southern Dobrogea by Bulgaria, after the Treaty of Craiova of 7 September (see the map below). This created a grave crisis which brought the downfall of King Carol II. On 6 September 1940 he invested General Ion Antonescu as "conducător" and subsequently abdicated the throne.



Essential

- ❖ Two important reforms in Romania after WWI were the universal suffrage for men and the agrarian reform;
- ❖ The most important politicians of interwar Romania were the liberals Ion I. C. Brătianu and Gh. Tătărescu, and the National Peasants' Party founder Iuliu Maniu;
- ❖ King Ferdinand and Queen Marie were solemnly crowned in Alba Iulia as Kings of Greater Romania. King Carol II's reign was marked by political division and turned into an authoritarian regime.

Vocabulary

∞ **universal suffrage** = extension of the right to vote to all adults;

Gheorghe Tătărescu (1886-1957)



Octavian Goga (1881-1938)



Bucharest in 1930



- ⌘ **extremist** = a person who favours or resorts to immoderate, uncompromising, or fanatical methods or behaviour, esp in being politically radical;
- ⌘ **regency** = the rule of a person or group who exercises the ruling power in a kingdom during the minority, absence, or disability of the sovereign;
- ⌘ **Fascism** = a governmental system led by a dictator having complete power, forcibly suppressing opposition and criticism, regimenting all industry, commerce, etc., and emphasizing an aggressive nationalism and often racism;
- ⌘ **Communism** = a political movement based upon the writings of Marx that considers history in terms of class conflict and revolutionary struggle, resulting eventually in the victory of the proletariat and the establishment of a socialist order based on public ownership of the means of production;
- ⌘ **camarilla** = a company of secret or irresponsible councillors, e.g., the king's circle of advisors.

To know more...

The film *Moromeții* (The Moromete Family, 1988), after the novel with the same title by Marin Preda, is set in interwar Romania, depicting the struggle of a family of villagers with taxes, the application of the agrarian reform, and agrarian banks. The movie touches on the desire of youth to escape the rural society, preferring to be part of the precarious urban working class.

Applications

1. Name two kings of interwar Romania.
2. Name two political parties of interwar Romania.
3. Name two politicians of interwar Romania.
4. Name one regional or extremist political party of interwar Romania.
5. What was the Tătărescu government concerned with?
6. Explain the dynastic crisis of 1925-1930.
7. Characterize the rule of King Carol II.
8. Why did King Carol II lose power in 1940?
9. Write a 100-150 word essay about interwar Romania. Mention the challenges of Greater Romania, the main political parties and politicians, King Ferdinand, Queen Marie, King Carol II and the events of the summer and autumn of 1940.

Lesson 26. ROMANIA IN WORLD WAR II

Marshal Ion Antonescu (1882-1946)



IAR80, Romanian fighters



Destruction of Jewish temple in Bucharest, 1941



Objectives

- to know about Romania's involvement in WWII with the Axis;
- to be acquainted with Romania's involvement in WWII with the United Nations;
- to be familiar with the rule of Marshal Ion Antonescu.

Information

World War II began on 1 September 1939 with the German invasion of Poland. The causes for the outbreak of WWII were manifold: the failure of the Versailles Treaty to provide for peace in Europe, the numerous disappointments brought by the League of Nations, the rise of nationalism and extremism in Europe after the great economic crisis, the appeasement policy of the West, etc.

The two alliances that fought the war were: the **Axis** (Germany, Italy, and Japan) and the **Allies** (or United Nations: France, Britain, Russia, the USA, etc.). As you know, after 6 September 1939 the leadership of Romania was taken by **Ion Antonescu**, one of the most experienced general of the army, and nominally by King Mihai. Marshal Antonescu oriented Romania towards Germany and the Axis. Despite Romania having a long pro-French tradition, after the fall of France it became obvious that such a policy would no longer be possible.

Romania, under Marshal Antonescu, followed the German invasion of the Soviet Union with over **470,000** soldiers. A controversial decision of Antonescu was that of crossing the Dniester. The greatest trials were the battles of Odessa and Stalingrad and the campaign in Crimea. The turning point of the war was the battle of Stalingrad, where the Axis troops were eventually routed, signalling the beginning of the end for Hitler's plans. In 1944 even Bucharest was bombed, so a solution needed to be found to allow Romania to leave the Axis before the country would be overrun. Antonescu could not accept the unconditional surrender required by the Casablanca agreement between the Allies, and therefore could not provide a solution.

Opposition leaders and King Mihai agreed to depose Antonescu, which was done on **23 August 1944**. He was arrested while in audience with King Mihai. Later he would be taken to the Soviet Union, returned, and finally tried and executed in Romania in 1946. The government of the country was assured by generals Sănătescu and Rădescu. The first action taken was stopping the war against the United Nations and turning against Germany. Representatives of the old political parties were welcomed to power, including members of the Communist Party. 130,000 Romanian soldiers fell prisoners in this period, most of them being deported to the Soviet Union.

Antonescu and Hitler (1941)



Bundesarchiv, Bild 183-B03212 / CC-BY-SA

Bombing of Ploiești oil refinery, 1943



Constantin Sănătescu (1885-1947)



The war against the Axis lasted one more year. Romania had to accept an **armistice** imposed by the United Nations, according to which it had to send 12 divisions against Germany and pay \$300 million in war reparations. An Allied Control Council was set up in Bucharest in order to assure that the armistice was respected. According to the Paris Peace Conference (1947), Romania was considered a defeated nation but her border with Hungary was returned to its pre-war position. This confirmed the loss of Bessarabia, Northern Bukovina and Southern Dobrogea.

Essential

- ❖ Romania fought alongside the Axis between 1940-1944 under Marshal Ion Antonescu, participating in the battles of inside the Soviet Union with half a million troops;
- ❖ On 23 August 1944 Romania switched sides and had to accept harsh armistice conditions;
- ❖ At the end of the war Romania's border with Hungary was restored but Bessarabia, Northern Bukovina and South Dobrogea were lost.

Vocabulary

- ⌘ **armistice** = a temporary suspension of hostilities by agreement of the warring parties; truce;
- ⌘ **Versailles Treaty** = the peace settlement between Germany and the Allied Powers that officially ended World War I. Some consider its lack of fairness as a major cause of World War II;
- ⌘ **Casablanca Conference** = major WWII conference involving the USA, Britain and Free French forces. It established the principle of "unconditional surrender": the Axis powers were to be annihilated;
- ⌘ **division** = in the army, a major formation, larger than a regiment or brigade but smaller than a corps, containing the necessary arms to sustain independent combat.

To know more...



The 15 episode long documentary "România în al II-lea Război mondial" (Romania in the World War II), is a very good representation of the events and should be watched by any Romanian speaker. It is available for free on YouTube, together with many other informative movies, some of them in English. Otherwise, the documentary

Romanian soldiers in Transylvania, 1944



"World War II in Colour" is highly recommended and stunningly compiled.

Applications

1. When did World War II start?
2. Which were the two alliances fighting World War II?
3. Which alliance did Romania join at the beginning of the war?
4. Mention one leader of Romania during World War II.
5. Mention one battle of WWII where the Romanian army participated.
6. What happened on 23 August 1944 regarding WWII in Romania?
7. How many soldiers were sent to the Eastern Front by Romania?
8. Which territory did Romania get back after World War II?
9. Write a 100-150 word essay about Romania's participation to WWII. Mention the two alliances, main battles, the events of 23 August 1944, the armistice and any territorial gains for Romania.

Concessions in the East after WW2



Romania and the territories it administered in 1942



Order of Victory, awarded to King Mihai in 1945



Lesson 27. THE INSTAURATION OF COMMUNISM

A meeting in support of the National Democrat Front, 1944
("Long live the liberating Red Army!")

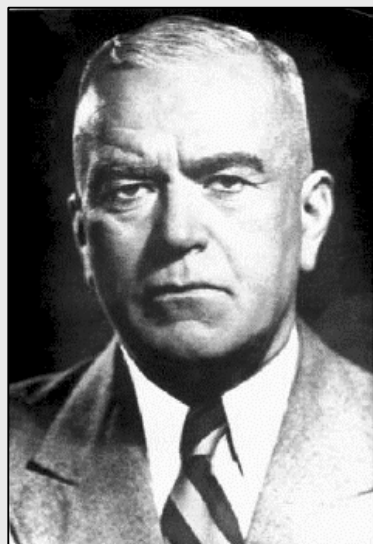


Fototeca online a comunismului românesc,
photo #B036,2/1944, <http://fototeca.iiccr.ro/>

Red Army greeted in Bucharest, 1944



Petru Groza (1884-1958)



Objectives

- to understand the gradual instauration of communism in Romania;
- to be acquainted with the period of Gheorghe Gheorghiu Dej;
- to be familiar with the terms nationalization and collectivization.

Information

After 1944, the growth of the importance of the **Communist Party in Romania (PCR)** coincided with rise of the Soviet Union as the dominant power in Eastern Europe. PCR and the Socialist Party set up the National Democrat Front, into which they attracted members from all the old political parties, in their try to gather up as much power as possible. Communist manifestation throughout Romania weakened the truly democratic government and led to the formation of the pro-Communist Petru Groza government in 1945. The government used intimidation measures against the opposition and the King, culminating in the falsification of the **1946 elections** in favor of the Communists and in the forced **abdication** of **King Mihai** on 30 December 1947. Thus, the Romanian People's Republic (RPR) was born.

In the following period the rest of the political parties were eliminated and a new constitution was drafted. **Gheorghe Gheorghiu-Dej** became the Secretary General of the newly founded Romanian Workers' Party. Next in the communist hierarchy were Ana Pauker and Vasile Luca. Those in power proceeded to the Stalinization of Romania and the creation of a **planned economy**, which brought **nationalization** (all means of production, companies, institutions, even the smallest shops, had to belong to the state), forced industrialization and the **collectivization** of agriculture (all land had to belong to the state). Those who refused to join the agricultural cooperatives would endure a real war with the communist authorities, usually ending with their beating, torture, deportation and imprisonment.

Culture was also assaulted by the communist doctrine. In theatre, literature, film-making, art the new communist reality had to be represented. Any publication, show or work of art had to be approved by the highest communist authorities. State control and censorship was exercised on all media, and libraries were cleansed of books considered dangerous by the new order. The regime was officially atheistic, so religion classes were taken out of school and the Orthodox Church was subordinated to the state. The Greek-Catholic Church was brutally dissolved and its priests arrested and imprisoned.

After the death of Stalin, in 1953, Romania began slowly breaking away from the foreign policy of the Soviet Union.

Gheorghe Gheorghiu-Dej (1901-1965)



Scinteia (*The Spark*), the officious publication of the PCR



Romanian Workers' Party insignia



Essential

- ❖ The instauration of Communism in Romania coincided with the rise of the Soviet Union as the major power in Eastern Europe;
- ❖ King Mihai was forced to abdicate and a quick Stalinization followed;
- ❖ Gheorghiu Dej's regime brought forced industrialization, planned state economy, collectivization in agriculture and the nationalization of the means of production.

Vocabulary

- ⌘ **planned economy** = an economic system in which the government controls and regulates production, distribution, prices, etc;
- ⌘ **Stalinization** = social process of adopting (or being forced to adopt) the policies and practices of Joseph Stalin;
- ⌘ **collectivization** = to organize (a people, industry, economy, etc.) according to the political principle of centralized social and economic control, especially of all means of production;
- ⌘ **industrialization** = conversion to the methods, aims, and ideals of industry and economic activity, particularly of an area that was previously underdeveloped economically;
- ⌘ **nationalization** = to bring industries and land under the ownership or control of a nation;
- ⌘ **censorship** = the act of examining books, plays, news reports, motion pictures, radio and television programs, letters, cablegrams, etc., for the purpose of suppressing parts deemed objectionable on moral, political, military, or other grounds;
- ⌘ **Greek Catholic Church** = the Romanian Church that chose to recognize the Pope as its spiritual leader instead of the Patriarch of Constantinople. It was especially dominant in some parts of Transylvania. See the lesson about Culture in the XVth-XVIIIth centuries;
- ⌘ **agricultural cooperative** = a farm, or a number of farms organized as a unit, worked by a community under the supervision of the state.

To know more...

The documentary "The Last World of Communism – Part 3 – Romanian Revolution & Life in Communist Romania" displays everyday life in communist Romania very convincingly. It is available for free on YouTube. It's a must watch since it's dubbed in English, despite it being rather centered on the figure of Ceausescu.

Gheorghiu-Dej and Nikita Khrushchev



Fototeca online a comunismului românesc, photo #E345, 55/1960, <http://fototeca.iicr.ro/>

Georghiu-Dej and young Nicolae Ceaușescu to his left



Fototeca online a comunismului românesc, photo #E078, 1/1948, <http://fototeca.iicr.ro/>

Coat of arms (1952-1965)
Romanian Peoples' Republic



Applications

1. In what context did the Communist Party rise in Romania?
2. Name one communist leader of Romania.
3. When was King Mihai forced to abdicate?
4. What position did Gheorghe Gheorghiu Dej have in the Romanian Workers' Party?
5. What does nationalization mean?
6. What does collectivization mean?
7. What do you understand by "the censorship of culture"?
8. Talk to someone who lived in communist Romania about everyday life. Take notes of what impressed you most.
9. Write a 100-150 word essay about the instauration of communism in Romania. Mention the rise of the Soviet Union, the forced abdication of King Mihai, the regime of Gheorghe Gheorghiu Dej, collectivization and nationalization.

Hotel Lido in Bucharest, 1950



Lesson 28. NICOLAE CEAUȘESCU

Rulers of Romania during the communist period:

Presidium of the Romanian People's Republic (1947-1948):
-Mihail Sadoveanu
-Constantin I. Parhon
-Ion Niculi
-Gheorghe Stere
-Stefan Voitec

Chairman of the Presidium of the Romanian People's Republic (Jan.-Apr. 1948):
-Constantin I. Parhon

Chairmen of the Presidium of the Grand National Assembly:
-Constantin I. Parhon ('48-'52)
-Petru Groza ('52-'58)
-Mihail Sadoveanu + Anton Moisescu (7-11 Jan '58)
-Ion Gheorghe Maurer ('58-'61)

Presidents of the State Council :
-Gheorghe Gheorghiu Dej ('61-'65)
-Ion Gheorghe Maurer + Stefan Voitec + Avram Bunaci (19-24 Mar. '65)
-Chivu Stoica ('65-'67)
-Nicolae Ceaușescu ('67-'89)

Presidents:
Nicolae Ceaușescu ('74-'89)



The Romanian Communist Party (PCR)



Objectives

- to understand the nature of Romanian communism under Ceaușescu;
- to know two characteristics of the Ceaușescu regime;
- to identify one event related to the international relations of Romania during the Ceaușescu regime.

Information

After 1965, when Ceaușescu became leader of the Communist Party, there was a short period of openness towards the Western World, and some attempts at opening the market and giving freedom to the intellectuals. A new **constitution** of Romania was adopted in the same year, proclaiming the Socialist Republic of Romania (RSR).

Nicolae (1918-1989) and Elena Ceaușescu (1946-1989)



The constitution clearly titled the Romanian Communist Party as the only allowed party in the country. In 1974, Ceaușescu was elected into the newly created position of President. The initial openness of the Ceaușescu regime attracted the attention of the West. In 1968 President **Charles de Gaulle** visited Romania. Later the same year, Nicolae Ceaușescu had the courage of publicly denouncing the intervention of the Soviet Union and her satellites against Czechoslovakia. President **Nixon** of the United States also visited Romania.

At that time Romania was bound to the Soviet bloc by two important international institutions: the **Warsaw Pact** (the military alliance of the communist states, mirroring NATO) and the **COMECON**

Coat of arms
Socialist Republic of Romania



Pioneers on stamp



Coat of arms of the
Union of Communist Youth



(Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, mirroring the Western OECD). Ceaușescu refused to take part in the invasion of Czechoslovakia with the rest of the Warsaw Pact countries. This created the effect that he would be open to cooperation with the West, and “opened many doors” to Romania on the international stage.

President Nixon and Nicolae Ceaușescu, 1973



Unfortunately, the regime of Nicolae Ceaușescu fell into nationalism, isolation, **“dynastic” socialism**, the cult of his personality and terror due to the **Securitate**. After 1974, Ceaușescu and his wife, Elena, became the absolute rulers of Romania. In the following period the payment of the country’s WWII debt was decided (\$10.2 billion). This amplified social tensions due to the rationing of heating, electricity, because of the distribution of food based on cards and because the country’s goods were exported cheaper than the production price.

Social tensions broke out into notable riots: the strike miners of the Jiu Valley in 1977, and that of the workers of the *Steagul Roșu* and *Tractorul* factories in Brașov in 1987. Despite these signs, Ceaușescu and his family were determined to prevent any change. The cult of his personality amplified especially after his official visit to China and North Korea. Every book had his portrait on the first page and his genius was praised at all times, while the country suffered in poverty and isolation.

Essential

- ❖ Ceaușescu’s regime has often been called „dynastic socialism” because the members of his family controlled all the positions of power;
- ❖ Ceaușescu attracted the interest of the West when he defied the Soviet Union by condemning the invasion of Czechoslovakia;
- ❖ His regime gradually devolved into isolation, seclusion, nationalism, cult of personality and poverty.

The House of the People



Building the Danube-Black Sea Canal



Large scale celebrations at stadium



Mihaela, famous cartoon character of the time



Vocabulary

- ⌘ **Securitate** = the popular name for the Department of State Security in the RPR. It was the secret police agency;
- ⌘ **NATO** = North Atlantic Treaty Organization, an international organization composed of the US, Canada, Britain, and a number of European countries: established by the North Atlantic Treaty (1949) for purposes of collective security;
- ⌘ **OECD** = Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development; an association of 21 nations to promote growth and trade, set up in 1961;
- ⌘ **rationing** = a fixed allowance of provisions or food.

To know more...



The BBC documentary "Ceaușescu – Behind the Myth" is an excellent introspection into the creation and construction of the cult of personality of Nicolae Ceaușescu, portraying his ascension to absolute power from being a simple inhabitant of Scornicești. It can be viewed for free on YouTube and it is a must-watch for any student of history.

Applications

1. When did Ceaușescu become leader of the Communist Party in Romania?
2. What impression did he create to the Western World?
3. Did Romania participate in the invasion of Czechoslovakia?
4. Was Romania part of the Warsaw Pact?
5. What can be understood by "dynastic socialism"?
6. Why did people riot or go on strike in Romania during the 1980's?
7. Can you think of one example of the cult of personality of Nicolae Ceaușescu?
8. What triggered the amplification of his cult of personality?
9. Write a 100-150 word essay about Romania during the Ceaușescu regime. Mention the early development, the new constitution, international relations and the characteristics of communism under Ceaușescu.

Lesson 29. DECEMBER 1989

Minister László Tőkés (recent)



Uprising in Timișoara



Iconic image of the revolution



"1989 Libertate Roumanie" by Denoel Paris

Objectives

- to understand the causes of the events of December 1989 in Romania;
- to be acquainted with the events of December 1989 in Romania;
- to identify at least one consequence of the downfall of Nicolae Ceaușescu.

Information

The causes of the fall of communism in 1989 were complex. Internationally, it was very important that by December 1989, Romania was the only Soviet satellite country where the government was not replaced, so there was some pressure because of this. Then, there were the encouraging signals given by the leader of the Soviet Union, Gorbachev, who promoted **glasnost** (transparency, openness, more freedom of speech) and **perestroika** (restructuring of the economy and politics), and promised that the USSR would no longer intervene in the internal politics of its "allies".

Internally, the Romanians had many reasons to abandon Ceaușescu: his regime's breach of human rights, the isolation of the country, the formal character of the Constitution, the rationing of food. Even though the Communist Party was 4 million strong, people no longer trusted Ceaușescu's promises. Ceaușescu had also become very suspicious of any foreign interference in his absolute rule of the country.

An apparently isolated incident in Timișoara involving Pastor **László Tőkés** represented the beginning of the downfall of Ceaușescu. When rioting escalated, Ceaușescu ordered extremely harsh measures to be taken against the demonstrators. He then went on a visit to Iran, while a bloodbath with 40 victims was taking place in Timișoara. When Ceaușescu was back in the country, he was booed at a large gathering of the workers in Bucharest. The army occupied the streets, initially determined to suppress the revolution. The massacre of 21 December got even more people out in the streets. Ceaușescu fled Bucharest by helicopter. Power was taken by Ion Iliescu and the Council of the **National Salvation Front**, which presented its transition programme to the public. Elena and Nicolae Ceaușescu were arrested and executed in Târgoviște on Christmas Day (25 December).

These events' most important consequence was that Romania could now begin her **transition** towards democracy, including freedom of speech, political pluralism, freedom of association and a free market economy. All came at very high price. Romania was the only country of Eastern Europe where the downfall of the communist regime required mass revolts which cost the lives of more than 1.100 people. This

Ceașescu trying to appease the crowds



Ceașescu's flight



"1989 Libertate Roumanie" by Denoel Paris

Ion Iliescu and Petre Roman in '89



©Daniel Mazilu

indicates that, of all Eastern bloc countries, the communist dictatorship had reached its utmost intensity in Romania.

Essential

- ❖ The international isolation of Romania and the people's lack of trust in Ceaușescu were the main causes of the events of the '89;
- ❖ Ceaușescu fled Bucharest but was stopped in Târgoviște, put on trial and executed on Christmas Day;
- ❖ After December '89 Romania could begin her transition towards democracy.

Vocabulary

- ∞ **formal** = something that abides to rules but is not practical;
- ∞ **transition** = movement, passage, or change from one position, state, stage, subject, concept, etc., to another; change;
- ∞ **pluralism** = a conviction that various religious, ethnic, racial, and political groups should be allowed to thrive in a single society.

To know more...

There are many sources for the events of December 1989 in all forms of media, this is just to name a few movies: *The Way I Spent the End of the World* (2006, Cum mi-am petrecut sfârșitul lumii), *The Paper Will Be Blue* (2006, Hirtia va fi albastră), *East of Bucharest* (2006, A fost sau n-a fost?), *Fifteen* (2005, 15), *The Timișoara Syndrome – Manipulation* (2004, Sindromul Timișoara – Manipularea). Don't forget to ask your parent's permission before watching any of these movies! *Tales from the Golden Age* (2009, Amintiri din epoca de aur) is also much recommended.

Applications

1. Name two internal causes of the events of December 1989.
2. Name one external cause of the events of December 1989.
3. Briefly define perestroika and glasnost.
4. How did the anti-Ceaușescu riots begin in Timișoara?
5. Elaborate on the following statement: "The events of December 1989 in Romania included hundreds of victims".
6. What happened to the Ceaușescu couple in December 1989?
7. Who took power after Ceaușescu left Bucharest by helicopter?
8. Name one consequence of the fall of communism in Romania.
9. Write a 100-150 word essay about the events/revolution of December 1989 in Romania. Mention internal and external causes, the main events and its consequences.

Lesson 30. THE RETURN OF DEMOCRACY

President Ion Iliescu
(1989-1996, 2000-2004)



©Agência Brasil

June 1990 mineriad



Ion Iliescu with Michael Jackson, 1992



©Gândul

Objectives

- to appreciate the evolution of democracy in post-1989 Romania;
- to identify at least one president of post-1989 Romania;
- to be aware of the integration process of Romania into the EU and NATO.

Information

After the events of December 1989 the “historical” political **parties** of Romania gradually returned to the political scene, together with a large number of completely new parties. The main parties were the National Liberal Party (PNL), the Christian-Democratic National Peasants' Party (PNȚCD), the Social-Democrat Party (PSD) and the Democratic Union of the Magyars in Romania (UDMR). At the same time, countless **syndicates** sprang up in all the branches of the economy. Because of their multitude, most reunited in federations or confederations, in order to better represent the interests of their working class members in relation with the state. A pressing problem was that of the **privatization** of the state owned companies. The process attracted internal and external critics since it was politically controlled, which led to the favoring of certain buyers. Social dissatisfaction with the government manifested itself in the form of the **mineriads** (mineriadă, violet intervention of the miners in Bucharest).

Map of contemporary Romania

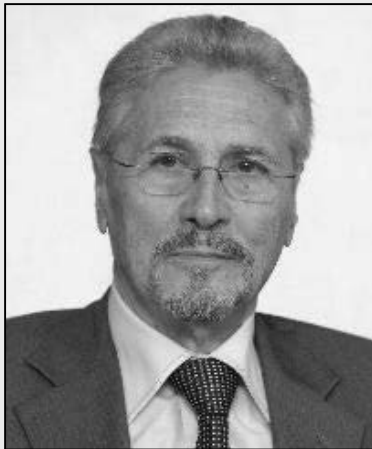


Corneliu Coposu, leader of PNȚCD



©Arhiva Ringier

President Emil Constantinescu
(1996-2000)



©Personal website

1999 mineriad



©Mediafax

Romania has had three presidents since 1989: Ion Iliescu (Social Democrat), Emil Constantinescu (Democrat Convention) and Traian Băsescu (Democrat Liberal). The **1991 Constitution** established Romania as a semi-presidential republic: the president is directly elected by adult voters, he then appoints the prime-minister, who forms a government that has to obtain the vote of the Parliament (=Chamber of Deputies + Senate). The most "powerful" person in the state is the president, followed by the president of the Senate, the president of the Chamber of Deputies and the prime-minister. Despite relatively frequent changes, some hesitation and some institutions' loss of popularity (Parliament, Government), the constitutional system is functioning.

A constant goal of democratic Romania was that of joining her Western allies in **NATO** and the **European Union**. The country has been accepted into NATO in 2004 and it joined the European Union in 2007, simultaneously with Bulgaria. There has been a constant care for developing closer ties to Western Europe and the United States, who today are Romania's greatest trade partners.

The country's **economy** has grown fast after 2000, but there has been a recent setback due to the international financial and economic crisis of 2008. Many Romanians have emigrated to Spain, Italy, and the West in search for a better life, since the country still faces problems related to infrastructure, corruption, medical services and education. There is a lot of pressure from European institutions towards the solving of these problems, but reform is slow and often confusing.

The Romanian Royal Family, Săvârșin, 2012



©Daniel Angelescu

Essential

- ❖ After 1989 Romania has continuously improved its relations with the Western states;
- ❖ Under the 1991 constitution which organized Romania as a semi-presidential republic, the country has had three presidents: Ion Iliescu, Emil Constantinescu, Traian Băsescu;

Romania joins NATO



©Icarusfilms

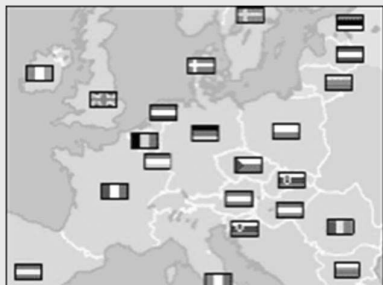
Pope John Paul II in Romania, 1999



President Traian Băsescu (2004 -)



Map of the EU with Romania (©BBC)

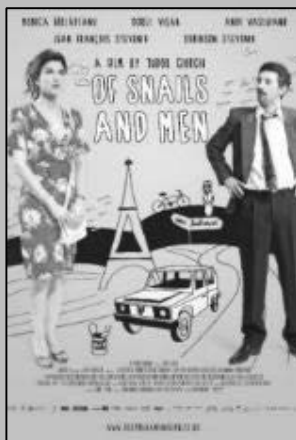


- ❖ Romania has been a member of NATO since 2004 and of the European Union since 2007.

Vocabulary

- ⌘ **syndicate** = a group of individuals or organizations combined or cooperating to undertake some specific duty, transactions, or negotiations;
- ⌘ **federation** = the union of several provinces, states, etc., to form a federal union, "tighter" than a confederation;
- ⌘ **confederation** = a group of confederates, especially of states or nations, united for a common purpose; a league;
- ⌘ **privatization** = the change (an industry or business, for example) from governmental or public ownership or control to private enterprise.

To know more...



Of snails and men (*Despre oameni și melci*, 2012) is set during Michael Jackson's 1992 tour to Bucharest. The main story follows the fate of the workers of a factory near Câmpulung. Seeing how the factory is struggling and threatened by the prospect of being bought by a French company that produces cans of snails, the workers try their best to save their factory and themselves from unemployment.

Applications

1. Name one political party of post-1989 Romania.
2. Name one politician of post-1989 Romania and his role.
3. What happened to syndicates after 1989 in Romania?
4. When did Romania join NATO?
5. When did Romania join the EU?
6. How would you appreciate the economic development of Romania after 1989?
7. Describe one issue Romania is facing today.
8. Why do you think people emigrate out of Romania?
9. Write a 100-150 word essay about post-1989 Romania. Mention the evolution of political parties, syndicates, presidents, Euro-Atlantic integration, and current problems.



PAST PAPERS

A. Example of a midterm History examination

Subject I. 25p.

1. What does history study?
a) the rights of citizens b) the evolution of species c) the evolution of human society
d) arts
2. What is Prehistory?

3. What is the Paleolithic? How did people live then? What kind of tools did they use?

4. What is the name of this statue group (it belongs to the Hamangia Culture and was found at Cernavoda)?

.....
.....



Subject II. 15p.

Read the texts below and answer the questions:

The region immediately north of Moesia, across the Danube river was inhabited by Dacians (a native tribe more closely related to Thracians or Scythians than Germans), who made frequent forays into Roman territory. These depredations became worse in about 85 A.D. and two years later emperor Domitian determined to campaign against the Dacians and sent five legions to the region. The Romans engaged in two battles with the Dacian chief Decebalus, the first being a defeat and the latter a victory for the Romans. The Dacians were not yet defeated but instead of continuing to fight they negotiated a favorable peace, with no particular intention of keeping to their treaty obligations.

In 101 emperor Trajan, set out with another army to bring the Dacians under control. In the process of marching on Dacia, the Romans executed a spectacular engineering feat by building an enormous stone bridge across the Danube, which was strategically critical if the Romans were to maintain their supply lines. Once on the far side of the river Trajan resumed his march. Again the Dacians were defeated, and again Decebalus agreed to terms of peace which he refused to abide by.



Trajan's second campaign into Dacia, four years later, was difficult and costly, but he persevered and eventually besieged the Dacian capital of Sarmizegethusa, cut off the water supply and when the town surrendered he razed and burned it to the ground. Decebalus killed himself, and Dacia, which corresponds roughly to modern Romania, was occupied as a Roman province.

Battle of Tapae
Romans defeat Dacians

Two battles fought 87/88 between a Roman army under Fuscus and Julianus, and the Dacians under Decebaulus. In the earlier campaign the Romans were ambushed and beaten. In the following campaign they were more successful, but concluded a peace with Dacia before completely subduing the region.

Battle of Tapae
Romans defeat Dacians

Fought 101, between the Dacians, under Decebalus, and the Romans, under Trajan. The Dacians were utterly routed, and driven across the river with heavy loss.

Battle of Sarmizegethusa
Drawn Battle (Romans vs. Dacians)

Fought winter 102, between the Dacians under Decbalus and the Romans under Trajan. Both sides suffered heavy casualties and there was no decisive victory. Decebalus however, sued for a truce, and Rome gained tolerably favorable terms.

Siege of Sarmizegethusa
Romans defeat Dacians

The capital of Dacia was besieged in 105. After cutting off their water supplies, most of the garrison fled the city, leaving all of Dacia in the hands of the Romans.

1. To which tribes were the Dacians related?

.....

2. How many legions did Emperor Domitian send against the Dacians?

.....

3. During which years did these Dacian wars take place?

.....

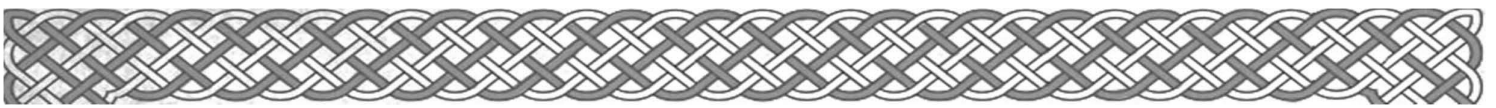
4. What was the spectacular feat of the Romans during their 101 AD invasion?

.....

5. Did the Dacians generally respect the peace treaties they signed with the Romans?

.....

6. Who won the battle of Sarmizegetusa of 101?



.....

7. How did Trajan manage to conquer Sarmizegetusa in 105?

.....

.....

Subject III. 25p.

1. In honor of the hard battles fought in Dobrogea, the Roman Emperor built the monument called.....
2. The three layers of the Romanian language are:
.....
.....
3. "Torna, torna 95 rater!" is a very early mentioning of the Daco-Roman or early Romanian language. What does it mean?
.....
4. In early medieval Romania, did the council of the elders ("oamenii buni și bătrâni") have an important role within the community?
.....
.....
5. The name of the leader in medieval Romania was "jude", "cneaz", "v....." or "d.....".

Subject IV. 25p.

Write a 100-150 word essay about the reign of Ștefan cel Mare. Mention his reign's years and concentrate on the 3 directions of his external policy.

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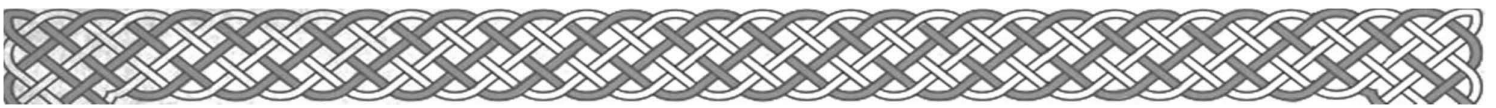
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B. Example of a periodic History examination

Subject I. 25p.

7. What does history study?
a) the rights of citizens b) the evolution of species c) the evolution of human society d) arts
2. Besides being voievod of Moldova, Dimitrie Cantemir was also a :
a) great musician b) writer c) historian d) geographer
3. The document emitted by Ioan Inochentie Micu Klein claiming national rights for the Romanians was called: a) Magna Charta b) Supplex Libellus c) Vae Victis d) Codex Juris Civilis
4. Tudor Vladimirescu issued the Declaration of:
a) Padeș; b) Budapest; c) Bucharest; d) Galați.
5. Which of the following was a leader of the 1848 Romanian Revolution?
a) Vlad Țepeș; b) Mihai Viteazul; c) Vasile Alecsandri; d) Tudor Vladimirescu.

Subject II. 15p.

Read the texts below and answer the questions:

The Transylvanian School (*Școala Ardeleană* in Romanian) was a cultural movement which was founded after part of the Romanian Orthodox Church in Habsburg-ruled Transylvania accepted the leadership of the Pope and became the Greek-Catholic Church (ca.1700). The links with Rome brought to the Romanian Transylvanians the ideas of the Age of Enlightenment. The Transylvanian School's major centres were in the cities of Blaj, Oradea, Lugoj and Beiuș.

Its members contemplated the origin of Romanians from a scientific point of view, bringing historical and philological arguments in favour of the thesis that the Transylvanian Romanians were the direct descendants of the Roman colonists brought in Dacia after its conquest in early 2nd century AD.

The Transylvanian School had a notable impact in the Romanian culture of both Transylvania, but also of the Romanians living across the Carpathians, in Wallachia and Moldavia, leading to the National awakening of Romania.

The Transylvanian School created the current phonetic system of the Romanian alphabet based on the Latin alphabet, largely derived from the Italian and the French alphabets. This replaced the use of the medieval Romanian Cyrillic alphabets well as the previously Latin alphabet based phonetic system which had been based on the Hungarian alphabet. Another notable contribution of the Transylvanian School was the usage of the first French and Italian neologisms.

1. What was Școala Ardeleană?

.....

2. How did some Romanians in Transylvania become Greek-Catholic?

.....

3. Which were the centres of Școala Ardeleană?

.....

4. What part of Romanian history did the members of Școala Ardeleană study?



.....
.....
5. What was the role of Școala Ardeleană in creating the Romanian alphabet?
.....
.....

Subject III. 25p.

III.1. Who was the leader of the 1821 revolution and what actions did he take? How did the revolution end?

Read the following quotes belonging to Tudor Vladimirescu:

- [In the Padeș proclamation:] "*There is no law that would prevent a man from meeting evil with evil.*"
- [To boyar Nicolae Văcărescu:] "*It seems to me that you sir consider the folk, whose blood has been feeding and giving lustre to all the boyar kin, to be in fact nothing, and that you only view the pillagers to be the motherland... But how come you sir do not consider the motherland to be in fact the people, and not the pillagers' clique?*"
- [To the Ottoman Porte:] "*[The Wallachians have rebelled because] of the terrible sufferings they are caused by the union between the native boyars and those who have for long been sent as rulers and legislators of this people.*"
- [Answering Ypsilanti's question regarding the liberty he had taken to govern in Bucharest:] "*[I act] on the basis of the right given to me by my own sword.*"

III.2.

In the third quote, Tudor Vladimirescu refers to the Phanariots. Why did Romanians become dissatisfied with the Phanariot rulers? Who were they and how can the Phanariot regime be characterized?

What does "lustre" mean, in your opinion?

Subject IV. 25p.

Write about the reign of Mihai Viteazul. Mention his reign years and concentrate on his origins, his methods of dealing with the Ottomans, his most important battles, the unification of Wallachia, Moldova and Transylvania and his demise.





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