

STUDIES AND ARTICLES

A “CLASH” OF CIVILIZATIONS IN ANTIQUITY:
THE GREEK-PERSIAN WARS

Mădălina Strehie

Abstract

Though the concept of “clash of civilizations” appeared in contemporary times, it was put into practice ever since antiquity in the form of some epic military confrontations, such as the Greek-Persian Wars. The ancient Eastern world represented by the Persians confronted the ancient Western world represented by the Greeks in a real fight for hegemony, which implied economic interests, spheres of influence, military alliances, technological resources, strategic and military interests and leaders who made history and remained in history. The schema of “clash of civilizations” is observed exactly in the Greek-Persian Wars. The actors of the theatre of operations were two great Indo-European civilizations: the Persians, who represented the ancient East and the Greeks, who represented the ancient West.

The “clash” was due to the Persians’ wish to conquer the world, the East proving not to be enough for their geo-political interests. By conquering Greek territories, the Persians establish bridge-heads for the future Greek-Persian Wars. The opening of The Royal Road, one of the longest roads in the ancient world, and the setting of the mail service made Persians dare “adventure” beyond the Eastern frontiers. The East “Fault” wanted the inclusion of the Greek “Fault” with all its geography, economy, colonies and possibilities.

The ancient West won another “clash of civilizations” against the ancient East by the Greek-Persian Wars, after another victory, against Troy, which offered the Greeks their complete “adventure”.

Key words: *Greek-Persian Wars, strategy, spheres of influence, political-military leaders, ancient civilizations*

**TESTIMONIES OF THE ITALIAN TRAVELERS
ABOUT THE ROMANIANS IN THE 18TH CENTURY**

Iulian Oncescu

Abstract

Among the numerous foreign testimonies left by the Western travelers about the Romanians in the 18th century, there are also those of the Italian travelers. Out of these travellers who went through the Romanian area and wrote about the Romanians in the 18th century, we shall mention here: Anton Maria del Chiaro (1669 – post 1727), Bartolomeo Ferrati (? – 1749), Giovanni Francesco Bossi (? – after 1733), Franciscantonio Manzi (1695-1749), Giovanni Bartolomeo Frontali (1714-1803), Giovanni Battista Vannucci (1712-1748), Francantonio Minotto (? – post 1777), Lionardo Panzini (1739-1807), Domenico Sestini (1750-1832), Francesco Grisellini (1717-1783), Constantino Guglielmo Ludolf (1759-1839), Lazzaro Spallanzani (1729-1799), Francesco Pizzagalli (? – post 1792), Luigi Mayer (1755-1803), Camillo Giacomazzi (1753-1833), Niccolò Foscarini (XVIIIth century). This paper aims to deal with the Italian travelers who have come through the Romanian area in the 18th century and have left, under various forms, testimonies about the Romanians, the accent falling on the larger works.

Key words: *foreign testimonies, Italian travellers, Romanians, 18th century, memoires, histories*

THE STORY OF BENJAMIN PEIXOTTO'S MISSION IN ROMANIA

Marilena Rîzescu

Abstract

This paper focuses on the way the exodus of Jews, especially from Russia, Poland, Austria, Germany and Turkey, took place in parallel with a strong propaganda campaign supported by international media controlled by Jewish circles, a veritable and successful action, revealing accusations of persecutions, crimes and pogroms who were committed against the Jews. Quoting one case, today forgotten by everyone, of the news that the American press was suffocated in 1870 about the persecutions and killings of the Jews in Romania. It was mentioned in the American Senate of a genuine pogrom, and the misled American senators decided to send to Romania an American consul, the first in the history of the Romanian-American relations, to inform the spot on the dimensions of the pogrom and act consequently, on behalf of the American people. Therefore, as a U.S. Consul, Benjamin Franklin Peixotto, former president of the Jewish organization B'nai B'rith, came to Romania with a special mission to defend and save the Jewish people who were persecuted.

Key words: *Jews in Romania, President Grant, Consul Benjamin Franklin Peixotto, Prince Charles, persecutions*

ALBANIAN ISSUE AND ITALIAN DIPLOMACY (1920-1924)

Skender Lutfiu, Mentor Hasani

Abstract

From what we will discuss below we understand that the Italian diplomacy in relation to Albanian issue in the period between 1920-1924 has been quite active, having an important role in the development of political and economic events in Albania. Thus, among the most important events which took place in Albania in the above mentioned period were undoubtedly those of an internal character such as the Congress of Lushnja and the War of Vlorë (1920), the parliamentary elections (1921-1923), the June uprising (1924), and the external ones are undoubtedly, the recognition of Albania and its borders at the London Conference (December 9, 1921) and its admission to the League of Nations (1921).

In almost all these events, Italy was either an incitement (the Congress of Lushnja) because it supported the Government of Durrës, the cause (Vlorë War) or the supporter (recognition of Albania and its borders at the London Conference and acceptance of her in the League of Nations), naturally following the directives from her ally, England.

During the June's uprising Italian diplomacy did not have as much impact as Yugoslav diplomacy did.

Key words: *Albania, Italy, Italian diplomacy, June uprising, Ahmet Zogu, Noli*

**GREAT BRITAIN'S INTEREST IN ROMANIAN PETROLEUM
IN THE INTERWAR YEARS, ACCORDING TO A 1937 REPORT**

Marusia Cîrstea

Abstract

In the fourth decade of the last century, Romania was engaged in international trade, on the strength of the principle “*of not granting anything to any other country without being compensated for with an equivalent benefit.*” Economic relations between Romania and the other European states – respectively Great Britain – developed on the basis of this principle.

The presented document (*The second annual report on the petroleum market in Great Britain*) examines “*the export trade of Romanian petroleum products to England, in 1937,*” rendering “all the details which proved useful to the situation in Great Britain, both from an overall economic perspective, and from the point of view of the petroleum market.” The author of the *Report* regarding the market in Great Britain appreciates that “*it is the most stable and the most autonomous in Europe,*” at the same time advising concrete measures “*with a view to preserving the fruits of many years' labours which led to the establishment of valuable relations in the petroleum industry*” between Romania and England.

Key words: *Romania, Great Britain, petroleum, “Creditul Minier,” the National Bank of Romania*

**THE GAME OF POWER: KING CAROL II
AND THE POLITICAL PARTIES AT THE END OF THE YEAR 1937**

Mihaela Iliu

Abstract

In this paper I will present and also analyze the context of the elections from December 1937. I perceived the context of the elections as a game of power involving many variables and in which the main actors were, on the one hand, the King Carol II, who tried to control the political parties, and, on the other hand, some of the leaders of the traditional political parties who acted as a counterparty and chosen to maximize their chances in relation to the growing influence that the Sovereign manifests on the political scene.

Key words: *King Carol II, political parties, electoral champagne, Council of Ministers*

**WORLD WAR II: STRATEGIC ANALYSIS
OF THE 1919-1941 DECISIVE EVENTS**

Victor A. Svetlov, Nikolay M. Sidorov, Anatoly G. Egorov

Abstract

The issue of the reasons and the results of the Second World War (WWII) has again become a prioritized policy theme especially in those European countries that were formerly influenced by the Soviet Union. There is a notable trend in equaling the policy of the USSR with the one of Nazi Germany in the pre-war period and admission that the Soviet Union was one of the main states responsible for initiation of WWII. Historiography of WWII, both Russian and foreign, conclusively prove failing circumstances and propagandistic nature of the mentioned trend. The only thing lacking in the modern historical research is a universal conceptual and mathematic paradigm for interpretation of the collected facts. The majority of historians prefer keeping on basing on the common sense and personal preferences. Particularly, we have met no scientific paper where the issue of the WWII initiation would be considered from the strategic (game-theoretic) point of view. For this reason exactly this kind of analysis was chosen as the main objective of this paper. The use of the main admissions of the unified conflict theory and mathematical apparatus of the metagame theory provided an opportunity to prove that the Treaty of Versailles had become the generator of all the subsequent tragic events that caused WWII. Moreover, the European states – the United Kingdom, France and Poland had done everything to prevent formation of the anti-Hitler coalition and to avoid the USSR's becoming its full-fledged member. That is why these are exact states, but not the USSR, that bear the main political responsibility for initiation of WWII.

Key words: *World War II, analysis decisive events, the USSR, international relations, historical analysis, policy*

**THE DEFENSE OF BREST FORTRESS:
THE HISTORY OF KAZAKHSTANIS FROM THE 125TH REGIMENT**

Laila Akhmetova

Abstract

On June 22, 1941 out of several thousand defenders of the Brest Fortress there were more than a thousand people from Kazakhstan. The article is devoted to the 125th Infantry Regiment, which was commemorated in historiography as “Kazakh” one, as many Kazakh natives were serving in this regiment. Bringing in various kind of sources, namely archival data from different countries, the works of Western and Russian historians, the memories of the participants, the author tells about the Kazakhstanis from the 125th Infantry Regiment, their pre-war life and the defense of the Brest Fortress.

Key words: *Brest Fortress, Kazakhstanis, the 125th Infantry Regiment, The Red Army, German troops, 1941*

**THE ROMANIAN SPECIAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE
AND ABWEHR – COOPERATION AND SECRET PARTNERSHIP
DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR (1939-1944)**

Alexandru Iordache

Abstract

The evolution of the collaboration of the Romanian-German Intelligence Services was sinewy, faithfully following the political-diplomatic and military evolution, the intelligence structures and State leaders making efforts to protect the national strategic interests. The German Intelligence Services often abused the privileged status that Germany had in relation to Romania, taking advantage of the professional Romanian human resource, well situated for attaining its own intelligence missions. However, this effort of collaboration, despite evident inconveniences (the unofficial character during its first part, liaison officers that did not reunite all the conspiracy safeness guarantees, the lack of sincerity in launching certain directives etc.) proved to be prosperous for the Romanian side, as well. Based on the information reports drafted by the Special Intelligence Service of Romania (SSI) with support from the German Abwehr, the country's defense plan / military attack meant to deliver certain territories was updated positively, adequate counter-information and combinative measures were established – especially in relation to the Soviet agents indicated, and informed actions were taken in the Soviet territories, aware of the way of action and the collective mindset of both the enemy militaries and civilians.

Key words: *Special Intelligence Service, Abwehr, Second World War, information liaisons, cooperation, partnership*

**THE IDEALIZATION OF THE SOVIET REGIME
IN POST-WAR CZECHOSLOVAKIA**

Jan Bureš

Abstract

The study deals with the problem of creating of the new relationship of post-war Czechoslovak society and its political elites to the Soviet Union and its social, political, economic and culture system. The theoretical frame of this study is based on the theory of cultural hegemony of A. Gramsci. The study aims is to show how the politics and the media interpreted image of the USSR, and how was this image used to explain the key steps that Czechoslovakia's political elites realized in the post-war period in internal and foreign policy. The study is primary based on themes, such as the implications of the Czechoslovakia-Soviet Treaty of 1943, the position of the USSR to the Munich crisis, the recognition of the London Exile government, or Soviet acceptance of the expulsion of Germans from Czechoslovakia. The analysis of the crisis of refusing the participation of Czechoslovakia in the Marshall Plan is also an important part of this study. We show the inconsistency of fear of post-war Czechoslovak society and politicians of the possibility of renovation of strong Germany and the possible continuation of conflict with them. The study also deals with the question of the revival of the topic of the Slavic mutuality it was relatively connected with the model of people's democracy, imported by the Soviets.

Key words: *the image of the USSR in Czechoslovakia, the Third Republic, cultural hegemony, the Marshall Plan, the Slavic mutuality, the people's democracy*

**THE GENESIS OF ROMANIAN MEDIAEVAL STATES
IN THE VIEW OF THE COMMUNIST REGIME (1948-1962)**

Radu Cârciu

Abstract

The genesis of mediaeval states is an important historical process in the evolution of the Romanian space and, consequently, it was extensively dealt with in specialised studies. The moment the Communist Party came into power had not only a political, but also a cultural dimension, and history had to be adjusted to the interests of the new authority along with Russia's role, which was to be advanced, as much as possible, when explaining the evolution of this people throughout all historical periods. Thus, in this study, we have focused precisely on the transformations brought about by all the stages of Romanian state genesis, starting with the elimination of the ideas formulated by the former bourgeois historiography and going as far as the politico-ideological norms which marked the beginning of national communism.

Key words: *state genesis, historiography, communist regime, propaganda, ideology, national communism*