

Als Beispiele dienen die deutliche Inszenierung der russisch-osmanischen Kriege in den Gärten von Zarskoe Selo oder das berühmte Bild „Die Einwanderung der Schwaben“ – alle Zeugen der Folgen dieser Türkenkriege.

Genau wie der letzte Beitrag und der Rückblick beschließen, wurden die Türkenkriege des 18. Jhs. kein Hauptthema für Geschichtswissenschaften, deswegen bleiben noch weitere unterbelichtete Aspekte für zukünftige Forschungen. Zentral- und Südosteuropa hatten damals eine komplizierte Geschichte voller Wechsel. Die drei Teile des vorgestellten Bandes bieten überraschende, ganz unterschiedliche, malerische und wertvolle Darstellungen der Türkenkriege an. Die qualitativen Bilder und die ausgewählte Bibliographie sind weiter Vorteile dieser Neuerscheinung. Die Beiträge benutzen aktualisierte Literatur sowie auch verschiedene Quellen aus der Epoche: alte Karten, Kartensammlungen, Archivunterlagen, Gemälde, Aufnahmen usw. Die Struktur und der Entwurf des Bandes versuchen erfolgreich, die Aufmerksamkeit des Lesers zu erregen. Für jeden interessierten Historiker sind die vorgestellten Artikel wichtige Hinweise oder Abgangspunkte für andere Forschungsthemen. Der Zeitpunkt der Veröffentlichung könnte kein Besseres sein: die Jahre 2016-2018 sind einen guten Anlass, um die Ereignisse vor 300 Jahren zu erinnern und ins Licht zu bringen.



SANDRA HIRSCH

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ANTONIO D'ALESSANDRI

**Sulle vie dell'esilio:**

**I rivoluzionari romeni dopo il 1848**

Coll. "Il Pianetta scritto," Lecce: Argo, 2015

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**T**HE PUBLICATION of this book is a testament to the fact that major topics pertaining to Romanian history, such as the Revolution of 1848, continue to spur curiosity and interest in other historiographical spaces, too. Antonio D'Alessandri, the author of this work, is a professor and researcher at the Faculty of Political Sciences at Roma Tre University. This is not, in fact, his first publication dedicated to a Romanian topic. In 2007 the Institute for the History of the Risorgimento in Rome published his monographic study on a fascinating female personality, Elena Ghica (Dora D'Istria). That study also saw the light of print in Romanian translation in 2011, at Pavesiana Press in Bucharest, under the title *Gândirea și opera Dorei D'Istria între Orientul european și Italia* (The thinking and the works of Dora D'Istria, between the European Orient and Italy).

The book we are presenting herein, published in the collection "Il Pianetta scritto" of Argo Publishing House in Lecce three years ago, is a remarkable contribution to the study of an event that has generated a considerable amount of historiography, namely, the 1848 Revolution. The volume opens with an introduction, followed by four chapters and an index of names at the end. The introduction is especially important for two of its sections: one is dedicated to the historiography of Romanian revolutionary exile in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the other aims to advance new

perspectives of research on this theme. The author tells us, thus, how he came to be involved in this research topic, which he then completed in the form of a book: his effort is consistent with the growing interest today, at the level of international historiography, in transnational phenomena and topics and in the history of exile. The post-1848 exile of the champions of various European revolutions that were suppressed in 1848–1849 occasioned them the respite for some clarifications and recalibrations of their ideological and actional priorities, granting them greater awareness of the similarities and the differences between their national projects, incorporated in the revolutionary phenomenon of 1848. Until 1857, when they were allowed to re-enter their country, the Romanian exiles had thus the occasion to refine, along clearer and more concrete lines, the unionist project that they would later on apply in practice, in the form of the Union of the Principalities, the so-called “Little Union,” on 24 January 1859. The author aptly highlights a significant similarity between the Romanian and the Italian exiles of the 1848 Revolution: the fact that after they were allowed to return to their homeland, they placed themselves unabatedly in the service of the national-political unification and became the main, front-line artisans of this process. It should be noted that Antonio D’Alessandri is a good connoisseur of the Romanian historiography devoted to the 1848 Revolution and that he is well aware of how this problem was perceived during the various stages of historical writing in Romania.

Chapter I, entitled “In Defence of the Revolution,” contains three sections (sub-chapters) regarding the propaganda made by the leaders of the revolutionaries dur-

ing the first months after their departure into exile. The second section entitled “Transylvania: The Last Hope,” is interesting in terms of the analysis he makes with regard to the Wallachian exiles’ interest in a possible continuation of the revolution in Transylvania, after its suppression in Wallachia. The third section of the chapter dwells on the situation of the Hungarian refugees, after the defeat of the revolution, south of the Danube, within the borders of the Ottoman Empire.

The second chapter, entitled “Representations of the Revolution,” presents in the first section (“Polemics and Factions”) the different approaches of the personalities that composed the post-revolutionary Romanian exile, active in London and Paris. In the author’s opinion, the period between the end of 1849 and 1850 was, for the Romanian exiles, “a time of harsh and polemical confrontation.” The experience of the revolution was still fresh for them, as they had not had the time for a more detached reflection, which was to gain consistency later. Besides the national matter, on the agenda of the debates held between these leaders of the defeated revolution who had gone into exile, there were also problems of an economic and social nature, as these were the areas where substantial reforms were needed (an agrarian reform, among others). In the third section, this chapter presents Ion Heliade Rădulescu’s activity in exile, his journalistic work and his attempts to influence political life back home.

The third chapter of the book is particularly interesting not only from the perspective of the analysis it proposes but also for its documentary contribution. This chapter presents the efforts of the post-1848 Romanian exile to establish

their own press, which could serve both as a means of launching and spreading ideas and as a battlefield. An illustrious example in this regard is represented by *România viitoare*, a newspaper created by Nicolae Bălcescu, to which were added *Junimea* and *Republica română*. An important documentary and interpretive contribution of this work comes with the second section of this chapter, centered on the echoes of the “Transylvanian problem” in exile, as this matter inevitably divided the Romanian and the Hungarian leaders, despite various attempts at mediation and conciliation between the two groups.

Chapter IV, “The Twilight of the Revolution,” presents the actions, dilemmas and projects of the exiles in conjunction with events that were to prove decisive for their whole endeavor, such as the change of political regime in France, which, following Louis Napoleon Bonaparte’s coup d’état on 2 December 1851, was to return to the imperial formula. This turn of events was to cause Paris to become unfriendly to all the groups of exiles of the 1848 Revolution, including the Romanians. These former revolutionaries were, therefore, to leave the French capital. The end of the Crimean War and the Peace Congress held in Paris in 1856 can be said to have truly opened a new era for the Romanian revolutionaries in exile, particularly since, shortly afterwards, in January 1857, after a long diplomatic battle, approval was granted to the text of the firman under which elections were to be organized for the two assemblies in the Romanian principalities, as stipulated in the Paris Peace Treaty. This was the beginning of the unionist process, fraught with difficulties, a process that eventually concluded with the double election of Alexandru Ioan Cuza in Iași and Bucharest,

on 5 and 24 January 1859. Back home, the exiled leaders of the revolutionaries would become ardent supporters of the union movement. This chapter highlights very well the complex historical process in which the leaders of the Romanian revolution were involved, as well as their odyssey after leaving the capital of France, until their return to the motherland.

The book authored by Antonio D’Alessandri provides an interesting perspective on a topic that has not escaped the attention and interest of Romanian historiography. On the contrary, it has catalyzed the Romanian historiographical production in the form of numerous monographic studies and articles, or of several published editions of primary sources (*Documente privind revoluția de la 1848 în Țările Române* [Documents relating to the 1848 Revolution in the Romanian Countries], with its A, B and C series). Far from being a divulging work, the Italian historian’s approach brings an interesting and unique perspective on the post-1848 exile of the Romanian revolutionaries and, in a broader sense, on a crucial period in the history of the Romanians, between the 1848 Revolution and the Union of the Principalities. Antonio D’Alessandri’s contribution belongs to an institutional and historiographic context of high professional standing: the School for the History of Oriental Europe created by Professor Francesco Guida at Roma Tre University, which has fully validated itself through its research and the studies it has published so far on topics pertaining to Romanian and South-East European history.



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