
ȘTEFAN STRĂJERI
Istoria românilor canadieni 1890–2020

 (The history of Canadian Romanians
1890–2020)

 Bucharest: Anamarol Press, 2020

THE HISTORY of the Romanians on the American continent has been previously approached in various books, as well as in articles and studies. Still, the main emphasis has usually been on those living in the United States, while the Canadian Romanians are often neglected. For this reason, the book by Ștefan Străjeri comes to fill a gap in the contemporary historiographical research. There are some shortcomings to the approach, but this does not mean that the work is not valuable. Drawing on a rich bibliography sometimes combined with the testimonies of direct witness, the author manages to provide a complex outline of the history and of the contemporary situation regarding the Romanians in the Canadian lands. In its seven chapters, accompanied by a foreword (pp. XXIV–XLII) and a note upon the edition (pp. XLII–XLIV), the author manages to speak both about the history of the country and its landmarks (pp. 7–104), and also about the works dedicated to the Romanians living in Canada, the first people from this country to arrive there, their assimilation on these lands, the places where they decided to settle, and so on (pp. 105–205). At the same time, there are mentions about their religious life there and its dynamics (pp. 206–343). The author therefore manages to offer a long and well-documented list and a presentation of the Orthodox, Greek Catholic and Evangelical churches that can be found there, without disregarding their history, their evolution

and the way in which people have understood their role and their mission among the Romanian communities as well as in the broader context of the Canadian lands. The relationships that they had with other communities, churches or religions, but also other aspects are emphasized here together with the short biographies of the main personalities that influenced their evolution.

The Romanian organizations in Canada (pp. 344–443) are the topic of the fourth chapter of the book, and Ștefan Străjeri dedicates to each of them important pages where he describes their history, speaks about those who led them in a certain moment or, when applicable, about how some of them ended their activity. The same structure is also used in the fifth chapter of the monograph (pp. 444–523), where 83 journals, the 8 magazines for the Romanians in Montreal, and the 12 television magazines from areas like Montreal, Kitchener, Toronto, Ottawa, or Vancouver are presented. An important section is then dedicated to the Romanian personalities in Canada (pp. 524–710). The author chose to structure his presentation according to their activity, looking at 88 writers and journalists, 67 artists, and 73 scientists and community leaders. The book ends with a chapter of testimonies (pp. 710–746) written by the immigrants and their legatees.

Rich in information and devoted to a topic that has been little approached in contemporary research, Ștefan Străjeri's book offers an important testimony about the relevance of the Romanian presence in the Canadian context, but also about its historical dynamics. By covering a history of 130 years, the author manages not only to offer a valuable testimony, but also

to synthesize a rich bibliography in an attempt to offer a complex perspective and a well-documented monograph. However, a future edition would greatly benefit from a deeper analysis that not only presents information, but also correlates it with the historical realities. Despite of all these aspects, due to the rich documentary material offered, to the photographs and to other elements presented therein, the work is an important presence in the contemporary historiographic landscape and should be taken into consideration by researchers.



IULIU-MARIUS MORARIU

MARIUS TURDA

“Războiul sfânt al rasei”: Eugenia și protecția națiunii în Ungaria 1900–1919

(“The holy war of race”: Eugenics and the protection of the nation in Hungary 1900–1919)

Foreword by ZSUSZA BOKOR

Translated by RĂZVAN PĂRĂIANU and ATTILA VARGA

Cluj-Napoca: Academia Română, Centrul de Studii Transilvane; Fundația Transilvanian Leaders; Editura Școala Ardeleană, 2020

MARIUS TURDA is an established scholar, with seminal contributions to the social history of medicine and race in Central and Eastern Europe. He is based at Oxford Brookes University in the UK, where he teaches a course on biomedicine in Central and Eastern Europe in the 20th century; he is also director of the Center for Medical Humanities at the same university. His books and articles are seminal works for the

study of eugenics, in both a European and a wider global context. In Romania, Marius Turda is involved in a number of projects at the Center for the History of Eugenics and Racism at George Barițiu Institute of the Romanian Academy in Cluj-Napoca.

As is well known, the eugenics movement aimed, on the one hand, to encourage fertility and reproduction among people considered to be in good health and morally sound, and on the other hand, to limit the reproduction of those individuals considered to be “unfit” (with serious diseases, disabilities, vices, character flaws etc.). Eugenics has been seen as a biological theory of human enhancement based mainly on the idea of the superiority of particular races and social classes.

This book (first published in English in 2014 under the title *Eugenics and Nation in Early 20th Century Hungary*) focuses on several objectives. On the one hand, it aims to highlight the work of the most important Hungarian eugenicists in the cultural and social context of the first decades of the 20th century; the author also analyses the phenomenon of eugenics in Hungary as part of a wider European movement in which science was closely intertwined with politics. The links between eugenics and nationalism are then explored, as well as the way in which concepts of hygiene and health were formulated and disseminated from a eugenic perspective. The period referred to in this book was a troubled and complicated one for Hungary, plagued by governmental crises, difficult relations with Austria and interethnic tensions caused by friction and frustration between the many ethnic groups that made up the population (Hungarians, Romanians, Slovaks, Germans, Jews, etc.). The first three chapters of the book are devoted