

4. Francis Dvornik, *Gli Slavi nella storia e nella civiltà europea*, trad. Pasquale Portoghese, Dedalo, Bari 1968 (edizione originale: *The Slavs in European History and Civilization*, Rutgers University Press, New Brunswick – New Jersey 1962), vol. I, p. 322; Jože Pirjevec, *Serbi, croati, sloveni. Storia di tre nazioni*, il Mulino, Bologna 2015, p. 18.
5. Arturo Cronia, *Storia della letteratura serbo-croata*, Nuova Accademia, Milano 1956, p. 174.
6. *Ibid.*

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FLORIN NICOLAE ARDELEAN

**Organizarea militară în Principatul Transilvaniei (1541–1691): Comitate și domenii fiscale**

(The military organization in the Principality of Transylvania, 1541–1691: Counties and fiscal domains)

Foreword by IOAN-AUREL POP

Cluj-Napoca: Academia Română, Centrul de Studii Transilvane, 2019

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**F**LORIN NICOLAE Ardelean is one of the young Transylvanian historians whose main field of study is the region of Transylvania, more precisely the military history of Transylvania. The book presented here is Florin Nicolae Ardelean's first work as a sole author, and it is a revised and enlarged version of his doctoral dissertation, which he defended in 2010, at Babeș-Bolyai University, under the coordination of Academician Professor Ioan-Aurel Pop—such details and more can be found in the introductory chapter (p. 11–15).

From a structural viewpoint, this average-size book is organized into eight chapters, unequal in length, with more than 400 pages in total.

In the first chapter, the author makes a chronological survey of the sources and

of the historiography on the matter, highlighting the new and the already known sources underpinning his work (pp. 17–23).

The second chapter, “War, Society and Military Organization in 16<sup>th</sup>–17<sup>th</sup> Century Europe” (pp. 25–50), contains general information on the European society and its military organization during the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries, this being the temporal limits within which he did his research. The essential phrase in this chapter, characterizing mainly the aforementioned centuries, is “military revolution.” It triggered a chain reaction within the medieval and pre-modern society, and it favored at the same time the development and refinement of military techniques. In several subchapters, the author describes a few important components of the military organization of Europe at the time, still within a general approach (infantry, cavalry, fortifications, artillery and siege techniques, and, last but not least, logistics).

The third chapter, “The Noble Army in Transylvania” (pp. 51–82), also presents general aspects, but the author reduces the geographical area analyzed from the European level to the local one. Thus, he describes in detail the noble army, emphasizing mainly the role of the military in the Kingdom of Hungary and in the Principality of Transylvania. The chapter provides minute details, such as close approximations of the number of cavalymen in a unit, or data on the cost of a cavalryman's upkeep, making it possible to also calculate the total cost of a noble army at the time. Also, we find information on the monthly wages of a Transylvanian cavalryman: 5 golden florins. There is even a table with the number of cavalymen and infantrymen which each county had to

provide; these are details that validate the preparatory work done for this book.

The fourth chapter, “Military Conscriptions and the Porte’s Army” (pp. 83–114), describes the medieval origins of military conscriptions; the military conscription was a contingent of soldiers-peasants from the noblemen’s domains, and their recruitment was a necessity resulted from the Ottoman threat, which had become ever more present in the Balkans at the end of 14<sup>th</sup> century. In the second part of the chapter, the military conscriptions and the Porte’s army in the Principality of Transylvania are described in detail; this is the period following the Ottoman conquest and the transformation of Transylvania into an autonomous state, under the sovereignty of the High Porte.

In the fifth chapter, “Fortresses and Fiscal Domains in the Principality of Transylvania” (pp. 115–127), we find an administrative description of the region of Transylvania and of the entire eastern region of the former medieval Kingdom of Hungary.

While the fifth chapter only provides a general survey of the fortresses, in the sixth chapter, “Evolution of the Defensive System in the Principality of Transylvania” (pp. 129–169), the Transylvanian fortresses are described in detail, as is the entire regional defense system. The author provides not just an outline, but rather a concrete description of the western frontier of the Principality of Transylvania, based on documents from archives and not only, showing that this border had changed, experiencing a sort of reorganization, especially after 1660, when the fortress of Oradea was conquered. Florin Nicolae Ardelean tells us that the role that the captain of Oradea had held until 1660 was

taken over after this period by the captain of Cluj. Therefore, the Habsburg army was increasingly incisive.

The seventh chapter, “Permanent and Semi-Permanent Military Categories” (pp. 171–239), contains relevant information regarding the permanent or semi-permanent garrisons of the fortresses, presenting the numbers of the military complement of each fortification (for instance, in 1552, the fortress of Timișoara was defended by 2,300–2,500 fighters, 400 of whom were Spanish and German mercenaries; or the fortress of Oradea, which in 1598 was defended by 2,000 men, and two years later, in 1600, its garrison dropped to 900 men). These details, and many others on the foreign mercenaries in the Transylvanian armies or the complements of various military units, information about outlaws, the princely guard, the boyars of the Land of Făgăraș, about the infantry, the riflemen, the free soldiers, the knezes, the voivodes, the judges—all this information can be found within this sizable chapter. Apart from this, we also find here a description of the economic aspects pertaining to each of the abovementioned categories—meaning, their wages; all this proves that serious research has gone into piecing together the military history of Transylvania under the Ottoman rule.

Chapter eight, “Military Campaigns” (pp. 241–365), is the most sizable one, both regarding the historical data it contains and the descriptive length. It describes the reigns and the military campaigns of various Transylvanian princes, among whom Stephen Báthory, Sigismund Báthory, Michael the Brave, Gabriel Báthory, or George Rákóczi I, all of whom fought to maintain the autonomy of the region. Other Transylvanian princes, how-

ever, like George Rákóczi II, through different military actions intended, for instance, to occupy the Polish throne, put this autonomy in danger, according to the author. In the second part of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, internal conflicts and Ottoman military interventions led to a weakening of the princely power, which later resulted in a transfer of authority, as Transylvania came under Habsburg rule.

The volume written by Florin Nicolae Ardelean approaches the military aspects of Transylvanian history, describing the organization of the principality during the historical period when it was autonomous, under Ottoman sovereignty. Thus, the book is quite complex, a real historical military monograph, which opens new research perspectives.



ROBERT-MARIUS MIHALACHE

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ILIE SCHIPOR

**Destinul Tezaurului României.**

**Argumente din arhivele ruse**

(Le Destin du Trésor de la Roumanie.

Les arguments des archives russes)

Bucarest, Oscar Print, 2021

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**L**É TRÉSOR de la Roumanie perdu en 1918 est un sujet de grand intérêt pour les historiens, les autorités publiques de l'État roumain, mais aussi pour le grand public. C'est pour cela que toute apparition éditoriale à ce sujet devient vite diffusée dans des cercles toujours plus larges de lecteurs. L'auteur du présent livre, militaire et diplômé, est en même temps un historien connu et l'auteur unique ou en collaboration de nombreux ouvrages d'histoire militaire, surtout de l'histoire du XX<sup>e</sup>

siècle etc. Après presque une décennie de mission diplomatique à Moscou en tant que conseiller, période pendant laquelle il a aussi passé du temps dans les archives de la capitale de la Fédération russe, Ilie Schipor a synthétisé ses propres recherches, fondées sur une documentation laborieuse dans plusieurs archives d'État de la capitale russe et sur la consultation de la bibliographie de spécialité. Le résultat en est un volume consistant qui réunit tant des interprétations personnelles qu'un nombre de 162 documents d'une certaine valeur scientifique et non seulement. Parmi ceux-ci, plus de 120 documents inédits, provenant tous des archives de Moscou qu'il a eu l'occasion de consulter.

Les documents et les interprétations d'Ilie Schipor désignent clairement les problèmes importants et novateurs du livre en question. Ainsi, il documente sans doute l'initiation par la partie russe de l'opération d'évacuation à Moscou du trésor de la Banque Nationale de Roumanie, opération qui s'est déroulée le long d'une année à peu près, entre octobre 1916 et août 1917, finalement menant aux deux transports de biens et de valeurs de la Roumanie vers la Russie. Cette pression diplomatique et l'affirmation de l'intérêt russe pour l'or roumain explique d'une certaine manière la non-implication adéquate des armées tsaristes sur le territoire roumain dans la défense de Bucarest en novembre 1916. Dans cette opération de convaincre les responsables de Bucarest ont été impliqués le tsar Nicolas II, les chefs des gouvernements de Petrograd de cette période, les ministres des Finances et de la Défense et d'autres officiels russes. La partie russe a connu la valeur du trésor de la Banque Nationale de Roumanie et a compris très bien le fait que la réserve d'or de la Rou-