

A Historical Perspective on Transylvania's Contribution to Interwar Romanian Industrial Development

MIHAELA ROVINARU, FLAVIUS ROVINARU

Introduction

THE PURPOSE of this paper is to analyze and emphasize the contribution of one of the most important historical provinces of Romania—Transylvania, to the industrial development of the country in the interwar period.

It needs to be understood that we cannot talk about Romania as a single unitary state before 1918. Instead, we will refer to Romanian historical provinces, such as Transylvania, Moldavia and Wallachia—the three main provinces, and Banat, Crișana, Maramureș, Bukovina and Bessarabia—smaller but not less important. Each province had its own separate path through history, but nonetheless they have crossed paths quite often, and, in some circumstances, followed the same trajectory for shorter or longer periods of time.

Even while separated and sometimes under different foreign domination, their interactions created strong ties, which were predominantly commercial. Each province became a marketplace for the others.

The Romanian provinces united into a single state in December 1918, through the Great Union, and thus Romania was born.

Transylvania had a very turbulent history. In order to emphasize its contribution to the industrial development of Greater Romania, after 1918, we believe that it is important to briefly survey it.

The first part of this paper brings up the historical landmarks of Transylvanian evolution. A comprehensive and conclusive description captures the main events that shaped the region in its modern history, from the 1600s to the 1900s.

The second part of the paper analyses Transylvania's contribution to the economy of the newly created state, focusing on the industrial sector. For this we have collected and analyzed data from statistical yearbooks of that time. We also reviewed several analyses made by Romanian authors of the time and tried to correlate them with the data. Comparison seemed to be the best method for this research, allowing us to shape an accurate image of what was happening in Romanian industry in the interwar period.

Finally, we were able to draw pertinent conclusions based on this image.

1. A Flashback into Transylvania's History (1600-1918)

THE ANALYZED period is set between two historical limits—the very short-lived union of the Romanian principalities under the rule of Michael the Brave in 1600-1601 and the Great Union of 1918.

Due to the political consequences of Michael the Brave's actions, the 17th century represented, for all Romanian provinces, a period of slow progress in the economic field, combined with changes in social structure, which led to the consolidation of civilization and the affirmation of the feudal monarchy. In the first half of the 17th century the three Romanian provinces created a system of alliances that increased their interdependence, aiming at the same time at the limitation or even removal of what the Ottoman Empire meant (especially after 1683).

From an economic perspective, the 17th century was one of overall economic recovery, although periods of prosperity alternate with recessions.

In terms of political regime, after the assassination of Michael the Brave, Transylvania became a battlefield of Austrian and Ottoman interests. The peace treaty of Zsvitvatorok seemed to favor the Ottoman power, given that the pro-Ottoman Prince Gabriel Bethlen was called to rule Transylvania. However, he managed to secure a broad internal autonomy for the province and, as a result, during his reign and during that of his successor, G. I. Rákóczi, Transylvania became the center of Hungarian culture and humanism.

On the same line, although not favorable for the Transylvanian Romanians, we can mention the Leopoldine Diploma awarded in 1691, which regulated for the next 150 years the constitutional life of the country (Barbulescu et al., 1998, p. 283). Among its provisions, we find that only three people/nations were recognized in Transylvania: Hungarians, Transylvanian Saxons and Szeklers, while the Romanians were considered "tolerated". Transylvania becomes a main bastion of Protestantism in Eastern Europe, being the only European country where religious freedom allowed Roman Catholics, Calvinists, Lutherans and Unitarians to worship without restrictions, while Orthodoxy and other religions were again "tolerated" (they had the right to worship and build churches) (Pop, p.209). Furthermore, through the Leopoldine Diploma, the Principality of Transylvania was directly subordinated to the Court in Vienna, escaping the suzerainty of the Sublime Porte after 162 years.

What followed was a struggle without victory against the Austrian influence. The external political and military context (the defeat of the Turks in 1683), uninspired alliances and internal events (Rákóczi II's uprising) transformed the Principality into a "victim" and pushed it under the complete control of the Habsburg Empire in 1711.

Because of the political European climate, the 18th century Habsburg Empire enjoyed a quieter period. This allowed it to concentrate on organizing and restructuring the regime, and focus on attempting to reform the newly incorporated territories, including Transylvania. In this area, Leopold I, sought to adapt and restructure existing institutions and create new ones if necessary. A first institution targeted by the reform was the clergy and especially the Greek-Catholic Church.

On the same topic of reforms, we can recall the era of Maria Theresa: tax reform, judicial reform, justice separating business and, last but not least and with significant effects in Transylvania, social reform, regulating the relations between nobility and peasantry. What should be noticed is that in 1767 in Transylvania the nobility accounted for about 7% of the population while the peasants in servitude (serfs) represented approximately 75%. Mainly Romanian peasants, the serfs were subjects of both the Hungarian nobility and the Austrian state.

The situation of the subservient populations remained especially dire. Joseph II, knew all about this situation from the time he was a co-regent. As a result, he declared the abolition of serfdom and hereditary entitlement and allowed the serfs' resettlement in 1783. However, because of the Hungarian nobility, this act created a greater burden on peasants. The nobility repressed the serfs who wished to join the Imperial Army and secure their freedom, so the premises of a riot were created. In 1784, the peasants, led by Horea, Cloșca and Crișan, attacked the nobility, triggering one of the most violent and biggest European peasant uprisings. The revolt was, however, suppressed in a bloody repression.

Nonetheless, the international echo forced the Court in Vienna to adopt an imperial patent in 1785, which abolished the personal dependence and the binding of the peasants to their nobles' domain, gave the right to study and to learn a profession/trade and gave peasants other freedoms. The patent was applied in all provinces of the empire, except for Transylvania, where the nobles opposed it.

In addition to this, throughout the 18th century, the Romanians' claims were met with constant refusal by the authorities, confirming the existence of a functioning pact between the nobility and the empire. On the other hand, the 18th century represented the beginning of the political emancipation movement and the emergence of the reformist intellectual elite.

During the French Revolution, the Transylvanian elite became active. Through individual or group petitions, the intellectuals restated the Romanian's main demand, equality with the other nations. One of these approaches was the *Supplex Libellus Valachorum* (1791) which, unfortunately, met the same fate—refusal. However, we witness the creation of a political movement around the *Supplex* that for the first time brought together in a conscious action different free social strata (Barbulescu et al., 1998, p. 328). The *Supplex's* echo spread despite the empire's reaction and showed a continuity of political ideas, a social orientation and especially a Romanian general space (Barbulescu et al., 1998, p. 334).

This echo reached the eve of the 1848 Revolution. The ideals became wider, bringing into question the nation. There emerged demands for political autonomy, based on the legitimate right of self-determination of an ethnic community and the increasing desire for a union of all Romanians into a single state. The opposition and actions of the Hungarian nobility pushed the Transylvanian revolutionaries toward the Court in Vienna. Thus in 1849, Andrei Șaguna presented before the Emperor Franz Josef a national program that brought into discussion the union of all Romanians within the Empire. As expected, the program was rejected by the adoption of new imperial Constitution. Despite Avram Iancu's actions or Nicolae Bălcescu's attempts to reconcile the two

positions, the blow came from the Russian and Austrian armies, who defeated the Hungarian military, abolishing free Hungary and shattering any hope of achieving a united duchy. In addition, the alliance with the Court in Vienna was dismantled and Transylvania became again an imperial province.

In 1860 the Emperor Franz Josef promulgated the October Diploma, which ceased the military regime in Transylvania and the Grand Principality of Transylvania became an autonomous state within the empire. With the convening of Transylvanian Assembly (Diet) in Sibiu, laws were passed that set the Romanian nation in Transylvania equal with the previously privileged nations, making Romanian an official language in Transylvania, alongside German and Hungarian.

Yet the Transylvanian Romanians' fate was still being decided by others. In 1867, through the *Ausgleich* Austria-Hungary was created, unifying Transylvania with Hungary. Romanians became a minority in Greater Hungary (instead of a majority population in the Principality of Transylvania) and, in 1868, "the minority law" was passed, limiting the religious freedom and cultural life of Romanians. All this led to reactions of the Romanian leaders, culminating with the creation, in 1880, of the Romanian National Party, whose goal was to restore the autonomy of Transylvania.

However, Transylvania remained a part of Hungary and only on 1 December 1918 did the Transylvanian leaders succeed in their long time effort, "the eternal union of all Romanians from Transylvania, Banat, Crișana and Maramureș with Romania."

Throughout the 19th century Transylvania was, as we have shown, under the Austro-Hungarian or Austrian domination. Although within the Habsburg Monarchy, the Transylvania region was relatively underdeveloped, compared with the Romanian Principalities it had a higher level of economic development. The economic activity in Transylvania was characterized by high agricultural productivity, a greater number of cities, a higher level of exploitation of natural resources and a more powerful processing sector (Murgescu, 2010, p. 148).

2. Transylvania's Contribution to Interwar Romanian Industrial Development

THE END of the First World War also meant favorable conditions for the unification. The historic dream the Romanian provinces' had had for ages could become reality. The implications of this process were profound, affecting the political, social and, last but not least, the economic life.

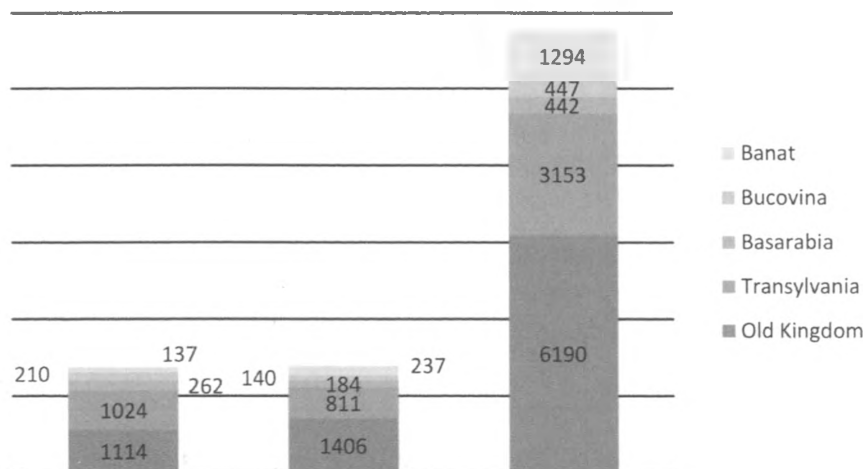
From an economic point of view the changes and transformations that followed the political process influenced all types of activities in all regions of the new country. Our main focus is the industry. The Romanian industry has experienced difficulties, as it had to face both internal and external problems. Internally, there were issues arising from the aggregation of the new Romanian economic and social space. Externally, the problems were generated by the necessity that Romania needed to be perceived as an independent entity, both territorially and economically.

Through the Great Union a fresh and genuine Romania was born. We can consider that we had a new industry “in terms of the nature of the industries that returned”, with a legal framework based on four different industrial legislations—Romanian, Hungarian, Austrian and Russian (N.P. Arcadian, 1936, p. 146).

Following the completion of the national unity, new industries appeared: “Romania’s industry after the Great Union was considerably enhanced: Transylvania and especially Banat were important industrial centers, which brought to Romania an increase in its industrial capacity” (G.N. Leon, 1943, p.160).

To illustrate this we can observe that, in the period leading to the Great Union, the “Old Kingdom” (the union of the other two main historical provinces) industry consisted of 1114 enterprises, while in 1927, 4094 enterprises were listed. For a better understanding of the positive effects induced on the Romanian industry by the unification of the national space, there are a several figures regarding the situation within the domestic industry in 1921, three years after the unification.

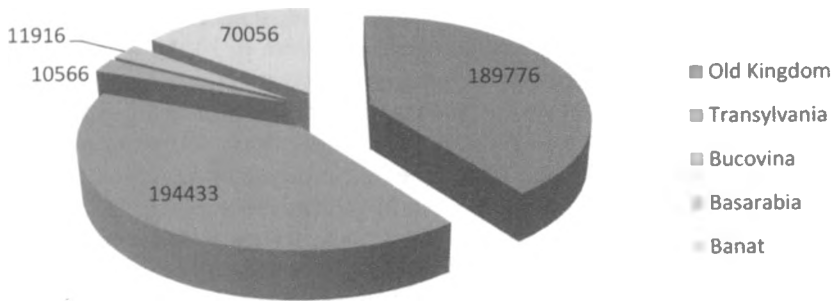
FIG.1 INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN OLD KINGDOM AND ROMANIAN PROVINCES



SOURCE: Statistical Yearbook of Romania, 1922, p. 202-203

We note that a result of the unification of all Romanian territories was an increase in the absolute value of industrial enterprises by 1571—which were added to the 1114 existing enterprises in the Old Kingdom. In relative terms, an increase of 141.02% was recorded, also in regard to the Old Kingdom. This important growth was supported by an important input coming from Transylvania, in terms of driving force—Horse Power, as shown in the next figure.

FIG. 2 DRIVING FORCE IN ROMANIAN PROVINCES IN 1921



SOURCE: Statistical Yearbook of Romania, 1922, pg.202-203

The growth was not only recorded in terms of the number of industrial enterprises, but also in terms of population. A large population could only be a favorable factor for domestic sales in Romania. As a lot of disparities in terms of industrial development between provinces existed, the internal market was able to experience a strong development.

In accurate figures, unified Romania meant an increase both in terms of population and territories, of course. Statistical data on the Romanian territories that joined the Kingdom of Romania in 1918 are conclusive, as we can observe in the following table (Statistical Yearbook, 1919).

TABLE 1. AREA AND POPULATION OF ROMANIA IN 1918

Territory	Area (km ²)	Population		Total Population	Population Density (per km ²)
		Men	Women		
Bessarabia	44,422	1,198,900	1,145,900	2,344,800	58
Bukovina	10,442	395,963	404,135	800,098	77
Banat	28,523	789,102	793,031	1,582,133	55.5
Transylvania	57,804	1,350,480	1,327,887	2,678,367	46.3
Crișana	20,825	659,836	657,145	1,316,981	63.2
Maramureș	16,213	378,205	388,461	766,666	47.3
Old Kingdom	137,903	3,989,606	3,914,498	7,904,104	56
Total	316,132	8,762,092	8,631,057	17,393,149	57.6

SOURCE: Statistical Yearbook of Romania 1915-1916, p. 342

It is obvious that after the unification of the national space, Romania as a whole gained from both a territorial and an economic perspective.

Even if there were opposite opinions about who was the main beneficiary of the Great Union, we emphasize the need to take into account of the fact that this win was not just beneficial to the Old Kingdom but to all provinces of the Romanian national state.

For a more substantial and accurate image we will review some analyses made by three Romanian authors, Mihail Manoilescu, G.N. Leon and N.P. Arcadian.

Mihail Manoilescu (1891-1950) was a publicist, a political and economic thinker, and politician—Romania's Foreign Affairs Minister. Among his concerns we can find the major role of the bourgeoisie, the need for industrialization of Romania, the need to develop capitalism. His economic thinking about corporatism aroused interest in Brazil. *La situation économique de la Roumanie en 1929* (1940) and *Politica statului în chestiunea refacerii industriale* (1920) are just a few titles in his oeuvre, related to our subject.

G.N. Leon (1888-1958?) had a very complex activity: professor at Cluj University and later Bucharest University, publicist, politician—Minister of Economy, of Industry and Trade, and Minister of Finance during the interwar period, Deputy Governor of the National Bank of Romania, adept of economic liberalism. Among its scientific work, we can mention: *Economie politică și politică economică* (1943), *La Transylvanie et la politique économique de la Roumanie* (1943), *Considerațiuni critice asupra politicii noastre economice și financiare* (1930) and many others.

N.P. Arcadian was a Romanian intellectual of the interwar period and for a short time he activated in the National Economy Ministry. In addition to his contribution to an impressive Romanian Encyclopedia, published in 1939, N.P. Arcadian is known mostly for his work *Industrializarea României* (1936).

M. Manoilescu gave us the opportunity to observe and synthesize general data that showed the economic, social and spatial transformation induced by merging all the Romanian provinces into a single nation state. After studying these data we can say that the Old Kingdom, on the one hand, and the Romanian provinces, on the other, contributed rather equally to building the new economic and social framework of modern Romania (Table 2):

TABLE 2. ECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC CONTRIBUTION OF THE OLD KINGDOM TO ROMANIA

Criterion	Old Kingdom 1918		Romania 1919	
	Absolute value	%	Absolute value	%
Population (inhabitants)	7,904,104	100	17,393,149	220
Area (km ²)	137,903	100	294,967	215
Acreage (ha)	6,102,631	100	13,128,900	215
Railway (km)	4155	100	10583	250
Big industry (H.P.)	211,582	100	497,093	235

SOURCE: Authors' work based on M. Manoilescu *Importanța și perspectivele industriei în noua Românie*, statement made on 24 January 1921 at the Industry Congress, in Arcadian N.P. (1936), p. 146

The data brought into question by M. Manoilescu constitutes a justification for the assertion that we have made above: the new Romanian national framework brought indeed benefits for all Romanians. Taking into consideration the reality that in 1919 Romania merged all Romanian provinces into one unitary national state, it can be seen that the increase recorded by the economic forces of the New Kingdom of Romania

from the Old Kingdom was between 115 and 150%—differentiated from one criterion to another.

For the whole country, the calculated average of total gains relative to the respective criteria indicates an increase of 132.5%. At the same time, the Romanian provinces—other than the Old Kingdom—recorded an average increase of 67.5% of their economic might.

Regarding the analysis of the general economic and social framework, given by national unity, statistical data gives us the opportunity to draw some conclusions that underscore the idea that the unification of the Romanian space was made for the benefit of the entire population living in that geographic area.

Taking as a starting point this general framework, in what follows we will focus on the study of Romanian industry after 1918.

One of the Romanian authors that wrote about this subject was G.N. Leon, who conducted a general review of Romania's economic structure identifying three major time periods that characterized the existence of the Romanian space:

- Prior to 1918—a period in which there was no complete unity of the Romanian national space, a fact that G.N. Leon insisted on;
- Between 1918—when the Great Union was achieved—and 1940;
- After 1940—when the national space was denied again by the Vienna Dictate—and during the Second World War.

The interwar period, between 1918 and 1940, was the one that the author concentrated on. Referring to this period, G.N. Leon argued that by achieving national unity Romania became much stronger, economically and politically.

The study conducted by G.N. Leon addressed two major problems, the Romanian agricultural development and the national industrial development.

The analysis of both national economic sectors started with an attempt to highlight the need to modernize the economic activities within the national economy, regardless of their nature.

Please note that it is important to take into consideration the fact that the Romanian economy in the interwar period found itself under new internal and external conditions. Within unified Romania the natural conditions and resources, the rural demographic pressure, a mainly agrarian structure of the national economy and the increasing size of the internal market generated, undoubtedly, a new framework for theoretical discussion and practical economic approaches.

From all his considerations made on the new industrial framework of Romania after the First World War, we can notice that G.N. Leon did not agree with the thesis whereby the industrial development of the Old Kingdom was inferior to that of the other Romanian provinces (especially Transylvania and Banat). The only major difference found by the author concerned Bukovina, a territory that brought only a low industrial contribution to the new national economic complex.

G.N. Leon's opinion, which emphasizes the common benefit brought by national unification to all Romanians, was not singular. Broadly, other Romanian authors had similar positions and opinions. His view are supported by the analysis made by another Romanian author, N.P. Arcadian, which highlighted the real development of various

industries in the Romanian provinces versus the Old Kingdom, based on statistical data of 1919 (Table 3):

TABLE 3. NUMBER OF DIFFERENT INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISES (1919)

Industry	Number of different industrial enterprises (1919)					
	Old Kingdom	Transylvania*	Banat	Bukovina	Bessarabia	Romanian Kingdom
Metallurgy	171	75	19	16	24	305
Wood	155	240	25	67	15	502
Chemical	123	57	1	5	1	187
Food	352	338	35	78	174	977
Textile	58	71	14	-	13	156
Leather	66	46	5	6	10	133
Ceramics	87	93	19	12	5	216
Electricity	54	51	12	8	15	140
Others	48	56	7	18	5	134
Total	1114	1027	137	210	262	2750

SOURCE: Authors' work based on N.P. Arcadian's data (N.P. Arcadian, p. 148-152)

Each province separately, as well as the Old Kingdom, had a certain industrial field where it was superior to the others. Superiority in certain industries can be explained by specific differences given by specialization on those industrial areas/sectors that were favored by the cost-benefit relationship, a special role being played by the natural resources held by each province. For example, in metallurgy the number of enterprises in the Old Kingdom was 171, while in Transylvania it was 75; on the other hand, the number of companies in the wood industry in Transylvania was 240, while there were only 155 in the Old Kingdom.

We believe that this differentiated development was natural, especially since the Old Kingdom and the Romanian provinces did not form a single state entity until 1918, finding themselves in the position of trading partners.

We concur with G.N. Leon's position, as he was convinced that national unity was a factor for a national industrial development of the industry, particularly through free access to the natural resources existing in the new framework of the internal market of the country. G.N. Leon expressed this view in 1940, when he had the opportunity to measure the increase in industrial performance within the national economic framework, having as its starting point the value of production realized by the industries of each province, in 1918/1919 (Table 4).

Relating to the total value of production conducted in the Kingdom of Romania in 1919 we notice that the production obtained in the Old Kingdom had a share of 52.8% in the total. The other provinces' contributions in the total production were: 26.9% Transylvania, 11.04% Banat, 5.4% Bukovina and, in the last place, Bessarabia with only 3.7%.

TABLE 4. TOTAL INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT VALUE (1919)

Industry	Total industrial output value (thousand lei)					
	Old Kingdom	Transylvania*	Banat	Bukovina	Bessarabia	Romanian Kingdom
Metallurgy	786,297	259,666	254,339	13,270	16,140	1,329,712
Wood	612,247	951,960	56,027	413,314	18,940	2,052,488
Chemical	904,501	290,776	12,640	9,500	500	1,217,917
Food	2,469,909	1,070,760	405,292	123,889	346,730	4,416,580
Textile	545,993	109,176	335,671	-	17,006	1,007,846
Leather	489,103	208,885	167,252	30,180	28,041	923,461
Ceramics	136,547	152,681	30,136	23,316	381	343,061
Electricity	120,270	83,478	24,745	7,762	10,608	246,863
Others	125,306	25,293	7,633	11,359	3,798	173,389
Total	6,190,200	3,152,675	1,293,735	633,040	442,144	11,711,794

* Maramures, Banat and Crisana were not included in Transylvania's figures

SOURCE: Authors' work based on N.P. Arcadian's data (N.P. Arcadian, p. 148-152)

The total production output realized in 1919 may seem as an irrelevant criterion in a situation where we want to prove the joint benefits obtained by all the Romanian provinces as a consequence of the socio-economic unity of Romania. Therefore, we turn to the study of the great industrial transformation of Romania between 1921 and 1938, as shown in the next table (Table 5):

TABLE 5. EVOLUTION OF ROMANIAN INDUSTRY 1921-1938

Year	Enterprises	Invested capital (thousand lei)	Driving force (H.P.)	Employees			Input (thousand lei)	Output (thousand lei)
				Total	Admin.	Workers		
1921	2,747	2,837,298	481,155	157,423	17,288	140,135	6,151,886	11,711,796
1922	3,061	n/a	512,616	166,386	17,219	149,167	13,088,116	22,378,749
1923	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	17,674,399	34,384,323
1924	3,840	734,431	389,549	223,423	19,381	204,042	24,393,731	44,738,463
1925	3,445	759,020	384,676	208,683	17,255	191,428	22,215,794	34,723,323
1926	3,754	852,105	409,050	210,308	17,299	193,009	25,899,248	44,100,583
1927	4,094	39,482,559	463,436	214,052	24,383	189,669	33,634,362	59,044,501
1928	3,966	39,770,161	472,271	206,547	26,232	180,315	33,037,440	60,965,204
1929	3,736	40,284,730	497,961	201,184	24,305	176,879	29,698,689	56,128,798
1930	3,646	40,590,930	492,715	174,227	22,769	151,458	24,958,754	48,353,864
1931	3,524	40,549,182	498,059	152,309	19,920	132,389	16,263,488	33,154,712
1932	3,557	39,904,283	514,745	152,198	18,688	133,510	16,788,669	32,475,096
1933	3,487	39,821,220	529,968	184,777	21,264	163,513	17,881,250	34,940,757
1934	2,510	40,924,325	558,468	208,240	22,854	185,386	21,053,879	41,835,278
1935	3,613	41,841,375	582,946	230,797	24,697	206,100	22,943,534	47,288,370
1936	3,553	42,494,223	579,543	260,934	29,652	231,282	27,121,170	51,333,983
1937	3,512	46,275,399	722,638	278,919	32,881	246,038	35,244,886	64,567,298
1938	3,767	50,069,389	746,789	289,117	33,781	255,336	36,944,431	69,206,738

SOURCE: Statistical Yearbook of Romania, 1939-1940, p. 478-479

Within just 17 years (1921-1938) Romania's industrial output increased 5.9 times, from 11,711,796,000 to 69,206,738,000 lei. This increase in production value was achieved mainly through new capital investment in machinery and production technology. We support the allegation that in that period the number of enterprises increased only 1.37 times, while capital investments grew 17.64 times.

The capital invested in the Romanian industry in 1921 was 2,837,298,000 lei and it reached the amount of 50,069,389,000 lei in 1938. The increasing capital investment also increased the driving force of the industry, followed by an increase in feedstock used in the production process. We believe that the unified national economic framework and the increasing capital invested in the Romanian economy were the leading factors behind the performance of the national industrial economic sectors in interwar Romania.

Another factor contributing to the economic unity of the country and the implementation of a functional national economic complex—whether talking about industry or any other branch of the national economy—was the adoption of an overall national economic plan, centered on the economic principles of the social doctrine “*by ourselves*”.

This economic policy led, obviously, to an upward trend of the interwar economic life in Romania in general and in the industry in particular. The program presented by the National Liberal Party in 1921 brought forth clarifications regarding the means of developing the national economic environment, and this political program was doing no more than restate the principles of the doctrine “*by ourselves*”.

Conclusions

THE TROUBLED history of Transylvania had a great impact on its economic development. All the years under a foreign dominance imposed a specific path of development, designed to meet the needs of the oppressors and not those of the oppressed. Even so, the economic development of Transylvania was superior to that of the other Romanian provinces.

Based on all previous data and analyses, we can conclude that Transylvania's contribution to the further development of Romania was significant, but not unilateral. After the Great Union, all the Romanian provinces had won, and Romania as a single unitary state was the biggest winner.



Notes

1. Although the statistical yearbook covers the period up to 1916, due to its appearance in 1919 it also includes some data about the Romanian provinces that became part of Romania only in 1918.
2. To determine these shares we considered the total value of production achieved in Romania in 1919 as 100%. Ex: Share for Old Kingdom = (value of production in the Old Kingdom / total value of production) x100 = 52.8%.

Bibliography

- *** *Anuarul Statistic al României 1915-1916* (1919), Imprimeriile Statului, Bucharest, 1919
- *** *Anuarul statistic al României* (1922), Royal Court Press, Bucharest
- *** *Anuarul Statistic al României 1939-1940* (1940), Imprimeria Națională, Bucharest, 1940
- Arcadian N.P. (1936), *Industrializarea României*, second edition, Imprimeria Națională, Bucharest
- Barbulescu M., Deletant D., Hitchins K., Papacostea Ș., Teodor P. (1998), *Istoria României*. Editura Enciclopedică, Bucharest
- Leon G.N. (1943), *Economie politică și politică economică*, Bucharest
- Lumperdean I., Graf R., *Political Regimes and the Modernization of Transylvania's Economy between 1849 and 1918*, *Transylvanian Review*, Vol.19, Issue 1, p. 3-10
- Manoilescu M. (1921), *Importanța și perspectivele industriei în noua Românie*, statement made on 24 January 1921 at the Industry Congress, in Arcadian N.P. (1936), p.146
- Murgescu B. (2010), *Romania si Europa. Acumularea decalajelor economice (1500-2010)*, Polirom, Iasi
- Pop IA., *Religiones and Naciones in Transylvania during the 16th Century: Between Acceptance and Exclusion*, *Journal for the Study of Religions and Ideologies*, Vol. 12, Issue: 34, p. 209-236
- Turnock D., *The Pattern of Industrialization in Romania*, *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, Sep70, Vol. 60 Issue 3, p. 540-559

Abstract

A Historical Perspective on Transylvania's Contribution to Interwar Romanian Industrial Development

The dawn of the twentieth century marks a series of changes in the borders of the European countries. In this historical context, at the end of the First World War and after signing the peace treaties, Transylvania became part of the Kingdom of Romania. The present work shows how Transylvania brought a decisive contribution to the development of the Kingdom of Romania after 1918, through its industrial potential. First, we will review Transylvania's economic development for the period it was under the influence of the powers of the time. The Austrian Empire, the very last influencer, was decisive in the development of this historical area. In the second part of our study we will analyze and interpret historical statistical data and a selection of contemporary Romanian economists' views of the period in question. Transylvanian industries have influenced the development of Romania ever since, contributing significantly to the creation of a unified national economic complex. The statistical analysis presented in the second part of the paper evaluates Transylvania's contribution and substantiates our conclusion that this influence was not just a temporary effect, but remains a continuous presence until today.

JEL Classification: N14, N93, N94, O14

Keywords

Transylvania, industrial development, industrial output