

nization, followed by the collapse of the totalitarian regimes here at the end of the 20th century and, last but not least, the process of European integration. The fact that scholars write about the history of Southeast Europe not only in Bucharest, Sofia, Belgrade, Tirana, and Athens, but also in Vienna, Berlin, Munich, Paris, London, Rome, and Milan suggests the existence of a climate of competition that is likely to foster a high professional standing for the historiographic approaches devoted to this part of the world.



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Primul Război Mondial și realitățile demografice din Transilvania: Familie, moralitate și raporturi de gen

(The First World War and the demographic realities in Transylvania: Family, morality and gender relations)

Cluj-Napoca: Școala Ardeleană, 2015

STARTING AT the beginning of this century, but especially after 2014, many historians, theologians and philologists turned their attention towards the First World War, in a comprehensive attempt to commemorate this painful event. If, in countries like America or the United Kingdom, they tried to emphasize aspects pertaining to ideology or daily life, or to problematize various aspects of the frontlines or the home fronts, in Romania most historians preferred to bring to attention manuscripts featuring the memories of participants or documentary information.

In this context, the approach of Professor Ioan Bolovan, vice-rector of Babeș-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca, quite different and interesting, offers an example of both demographic research and historical synthesis. His book is the culmination of a long series of demographic investigations conducted by the author.

The Foreword, signed by Professor Liviu Maior, known in the Romanian historiography for his work on the history of Transylvania in the 19th century, surveys the most important investigations dedicated to the conflagration until now, highlighting the contribution of the Romanian historians and showing that, in Ioan Bolovan's book, "the demographic problems, the dislocation of population, village and soldiers' morality, family, matrimonial behavior, Church and society, are approached with professionalism" (p. 10).

Then, in the introductory part (pp. 11–21), the author speaks about the relevance of the First World War for the Romanians in Transylvania, surveys some of the most important titles dedicated to the subject, in the international and the Romanian historiography, presents his sources and his objectives, and expresses his gratitude to those who helped him in his research.

The first chapter (pp. 23–52) is dedicated to general demographic aspects (the number of victims caused by the conflagration, the number of men conscripted between 1 August 1914 and 1 November 1918 in Transylvania, and their ethnic distribution, their percentage in the entire population of the province, the emigration from the villages, deportations, etc.), while the second one (pp. 53–74) is dedicated to the so-called "natural movement" of the population in this area (the number

of births and deaths and the difference between them). The author explains, for the non-specialist readers, terms and processes pertaining to demography, and illustrates the way in which they took place in the investigated space. The last two parts are dedicated to matrimonial behavior (pp. 75–124) and to the attitudes of the Transylvanian Churches (Orthodox and Greek Catholic) towards the dangers of the war. They are followed by a section entitled “Instead of conclusions” (pp. 139–150), where the author disproves some fallacious

hypotheses of historian Lucian Boia, proving that serious research must be based on sources and not on pure speculation.

Well written, accompanied by extensive illustrations and a bibliographical list, the book of Professor Ioan Bolovan is an interesting approach that brings to the Romanian historiography the flair of the *Annales* researchers and provides a lot of information that can be read in a pleasant way, by both historians and outsiders.

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