

Jan Sadlak, Klaus Hübner, Remus Pricopie and Laura Grünberg (editors), *UNESCO Forum on Higher Education in the Europe Region: Access, Values, Quality and Competitiveness. Topical Contributions and Outcomes*, printed with the support of Government of Romania represented by the Ministry of Education, Research and Innovation, Bucharest, 2009 ISBN 92-9069-193-X, 241 p.

UNESCO – CEPES and the Government of Romania, represented by the Ministry of Education, Research and Innovation, organized on 21-24 May 2009 in Bucharest, the UNESCO Forum on Higher Education in the Europe Region: *Access, Values, Quality and Competitiveness*. The event, organized in collaboration with the Council of Europe, the European Commission, OECD, the European University Association, the European Students' Union and International Education, was convened in the context of regional meetings preceding the 2009 World Conference on Higher Education – *The New Dynamics of Higher Education and Research for Societal Change and Development* (5-6 July 2009, Paris).

The Bucharest Forum provided strong evidence that the last decade was rich in new developments in higher education. It also was an opportunity to record the vast expertise, creativity and readiness in the Europe Region to look anew at the challenges facing higher educations.

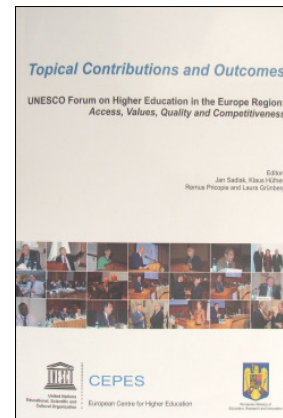
The UNESCO Forum reflected also on the outcomes of the Ministerial Conference of the Bologna Process, to be held from 28 to 29 April 2009 in Leuven and Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium and paid due to the attention to relevant activities and findings of the World Bank, and other UN institutions, as well as other organizations such as the European Association for International Education and the Academic Cooperation Association.

The documents and debates at the Forum have illustrated different national experience in institutional and governmental policies, models and practices allowing the formulation of possible scenarios and policy recommendations for future action at the national, regional and international levels. This provided the basis for the elaboration and adoption of the *Bucharest Message to the 2009 World Conference on Higher Education – Experiences and Recommendations from the Europe Region*. It also facilitated the further development of UNESCO – CEPES as part of an overall program of the Organization.

This volume, a post-conference publication, is composed of two parts: a selection of the main documents of the UNESCO Forum and a CD-ROM with all the documents and texts of the Forum, including the written interventions from respondents and participants. In this way, a testimony of the richness ideas circulated on the occasion of this major regional conference in the area of higher education is offered to all those interested in future of higher education in Europe Region and worldwide.

The following four topics have been identified as being of specific strategic importance and regional relevance:

1. **Access.** The massification of higher education in the Europe Region is no longer a policy objective but a reality and a confirmation of universal aspiration. This new situation has prompted new challenges. In this context, the paper signed by Peter Scott, considers trends and development in access in North America and Europe have always been, and remain, the key drivers of higher education development – despite the emphasis on other dimensions such as quality and workforce demand. Access, as expressed through the social demand for higher education, has not only determined the overall size of



contemporary higher education system but also deeply influenced their practice and values. Despite mixed results produced by the strategies followed in the past and uncertainties of the three scenarios for the future identified by the author, there is little prospect that access would cease to be the dominant factor for the development of higher education - although it can be almost exclusively defined in terms like "fair access" and "widening participation". Instead access is likely to be interpreted in much broader and more fluid terms giving rise to new strategies and policies.

2. **Values.** Values, ethics and moral responsibilities have for centuries shaped the European 'idea of a university'. The recognition of 'academic values' has also been part of higher education in other regions. For the Arab world, presented, in his paper, by HRH Prince El Hassan bin Talal, as being a world full of contrasts and prejudices, the university must provide a context in which people are encouraged and guided in the exploration of life in its various forms, developing not just skills, but also the intelligence and wisdom to help further collective human journey. In terms of education value-oriented and values-based, Andrei Marga brings through his study, the problems facing today's major universities. According to the author, higher education institutions are at the same time open and obliged to ensure competitive scientific research, high quality education and specialized services for the community. Universities try to ensure their stability within a world that challenges them to take initiatives. They are asked to integrate in the functioning of societies and to explore better alternatives for their organization and evolution. The major conclusions and policy implications arising from his analysis are:

- higher education is the engine of the technological, institutional and cultural development of local, national and global communities;
- universities have to establish their mission and functions, taking into consideration the reality of present society;
- higher education remains, even under the conditions of the diversification of financing sources, a public good that society has equally the right to be interested in and the duty to adequately support from a financial point of view, as well as from the legal regulations point of view;
- multiple values - academic freedom, university autonomy, protection of truth, social responsibility, integrity, argumentative cooperation, equity, creativity – result from the well understood mission and functions of the university, and these values have to be assumed together in new and variable context of the individuals' life development;
- the values of the university can be legitimated by considering them as advanced conditions, but they do not reduce their content to the use of instruments, as they have a rider meaning, and the programmatic preoccupation of the university for the formation of a creative and responsible personalities is of present acuteness, in a new era of modernity;
- values are crucial to overcome the financial and economic crisis, started in 2008; new organization and governance and management solutions, a new language to lead beyond the positivist – utilitarian, functionalist or traditionalistic approaches are indispensable in universities and their economic, administrative and cultural environment;

3. **Quality.** Quality considerations have always been part of higher education. In addition, more than ever before, the quality concern has been internationalized. This new context has brought about important initiatives, for European Region, those are introduced under the agenda of Bologna Process. The most important challenge today in Europe is the need for wider cooperation in order to develop regional and national standards and procedures for quality assurance, combined with the will to safe guard the diversity of higher education system. In his paper Jürgen Kohler found that European institutions and stakeholders are invited to shape the various trends towards vesting responsibility for quality

in higher education institutions effectively yet wisely. As regards in-house activities within higher education institutions, part of this operation will be the development of true quality culture in the broad sense, which will take longer than expected for ownership component as well as for the managerial element inherent to the concept of quality culture. In the context of this growing attention to the quality and excellence movement in the Europe Region and the increasing academies as well as political nature of the debate in quality is aimed to distill potential useful ideas and good practices in promoting excellence in higher education and tackle issues of recent approaches and developments in quality assurance.

4. Competitiveness. One of the most visible changes since the 1998 is the more pronounced presence of competitiveness and attractiveness in higher education policies at the institutional, national and regional levels. An important consideration for the introduction, under the Bologna Process, of convergent structures of programs and degrees, mutual recognition of academic qualifications and periods of study, together with an increase in study programmers' in international languages (in particular English), was the strengthening of the competitiveness such as that of the European Union under the Lisbon Strategy as well as the recognition of its reliance on research and innovation for which higher education plays a crucial role. Various ingredients that make higher education in the European Region today competitive and focusing on topics such as competition for students, competition for new provides, competition for funding as well the complexity of assessing excellence, the challenges of measuring excellence in diverse higher education system where institutions have distinctive missions, structures and process, and the relations between competitiveness and cooperation and academic solidarity as well as sharing experience on good practices already implemented in various countries in the area of improving competitiveness of the respective higher education system and institutions. Population decline and changes in age distribution are affecting higher education systems in most countries in the Europe Region, with a consequence that higher education institutions see the need to compete for students both nationality and internationality, with the risk that international migration be required in order to overcome short ages of skilled labor. In this context new competencies for new demands of the labor market must be anticipated and increased opportunities for higher education and lifelong learning need to be created for improving and upgrading the skills of the work force.

In conclusion, the Bologna Process has demonstrated how reforming higher education in an international cooperative manner can be undertaken and implemented. The decade of its implementation can be recognized as a "regional initiative of global relevance". The other regions might find, with appropriate modifications, the approach and mechanisms applied under the Bologna Process to be useful when formulating strategic goals in their respective national and regional higher education settings.

In a growingly interdependent world, the reform of higher education at the regional, national and institutional level also needs to be carried out in an international manner, while at the some time respecting the local context. A facilitating role of UNESCO could be of great relevance and could play a key role in initiating more cooperation among the different regions.

The participations in the UNESCO Forum on Higher Education in the Europe Region, affirm that higher education and research are now entering a new stage of development. Undoubtedly, higher education has become a very complex system which requires an adequate intrinsic knowledge about its structures and functioning. And although the crucial role of higher education is recognized, there remains a need for seeking appropriate policy directions and the formulation of adequate solutions.

Florentina CHIRODEA (chirodea@igri.ro)

Maurice Vaisse, *International Relations after 1945*, The Institute of Euro-regional Studies, University of Oradea Publishing, 2010, ISBN 978-606-10-0102-6, 285 p.

Maurice Vaisse Vaisse graduated with a History *Agrégation* in 1967. He has been a professor of contemporary history at Reims University, and is now a professor at the Institut d'études politiques de Paris, where he teaches history of international relations. Since 2008, he has headed the scientific council for historical research at the Ministry of Defense. Vaisse is a member of the commission of diplomatic archives, and heads the Commission de publication des documents diplomatiques français, tasked with the publication of diplomatic notes. From 1981 to 1995, he has headed the Association pour la recherche sur la paix et la guerre (Arpege). From 1985 to 1986, he was an auditor at the Institut des hautes études de la défense nationale. From 1986 to 2000, he headed the Groupe d'études français d'histoire de l'armement nucléaire (French study group for history of nuclear weapons). He presided the Centre d'études d'histoire de la défense (Centre for studies of Defense History), and has been a technical councilor to the Charles De Gaulle Foundation between 1995 and 2001. Vaisse has, furthermore, sat on numerous peer committees, notably for *Relations Internationales*, *Politique étrangère*, *Défense nationale*, *Cold War History Review*, and the *Retour aux textes* collection of la Documentation française. Since 1991, he has co-directed the *Revue d'histoire diplomatique*, and since 1996, the *Histoires* collection of Bruylant Editors. Vaisse sits on the administration council of Liberté pour l'histoire. Vaisse is the father of Justin Vaisse, who also is a prominent historian.

The main distinctions he received for the scientific activity are Knight of the Legion of Honor (1994), Officer of the Ordre national du Mérite (2000), Doctor *honoris causa* from Oradea University (Romania, 2002), Prize of the Académie des Sciences Morales et Politiques for *Diplomatie et outil militaire*, 1992, Prize of the Institut de France for *Sécurité d'abord*, 1981, Membre of the Franco-British Council.

Among the various well known papers of the author, the present one, *The International Relations after 1945*, has the structure and typology of a manual and it is addressed especially to the teachers and students from the International Relations sphere. Being at its first publishing in Romanian language, the paper appeared under the initiative of the Prof. Univ. PhD Ioan Horga and under the aegis of the Institute of Euro-regional Studies, the Jean Monnet Excellence Center, inside the University of Oradea. In the over 280 pages, Maurice Vaisse, in a very clear and descriptive way, managed to present the essential data of this extremely complex subject.

The paper approaches the international relations issue after the Second World War, when, as the author states, “the world that it is born ... is profoundly diverse than the one before”. The breach, after 1945, between the allied powers that won in the Second World War, lead to the structuring of the international relations around the rivalry between the Soviets and the Americans and implicitly the cleavage between the East and West. In the center of his attention there always were the events inside the Cold War, being emphasized the crisis of the end of the bipolar world, the decolonizing process, the change of international reports. The last three chapters were reserved to the end of the bipolar world and the imperial order after 2001.



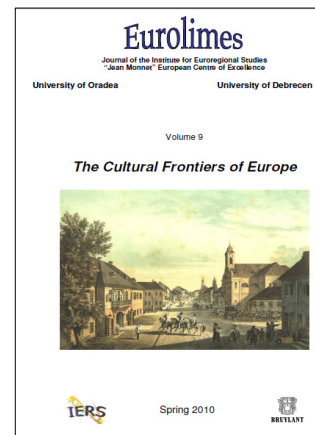
At the beginning of the '90s, the collapse of the Soviet Empire shackled the bipolar system, the world being today trained in a reorganizing process that oscillates between the single-polarity and multi-polarity. Threw the approached subjects – which cover the historic perspectives, the most influent theories, the practice and conceptual issue of the international security etc. - , the volume can be used during the whole way of the academic studies and masters, as well as by those interested in an introductory academic treatment of these themes.

Alina STOICA (stoicaalina79@yahoo.com)

Eurolimes, vol. 9, ***The Cultural Frontiers of Europe***, The Journal of the Institute for Euroregional Studies “Jean Monnet” Centre of Excellence), Spring 2010 Edition, 183 p., ISSN: 1841-9259

This latest issue of *Eurolimes* is titled “The Cultural Frontiers of Europe” and is dedicated to the Europe of culture. What is Europe and foremost, what is the Europe of culture? Is the term “border” current or would it be more accurate to use “frontier” instead? And what is “accurate” in a world where the more fluid frontier has been leading us to new quests, to shape the Old into New, to keeping the essence while facing the osmosis called “intercultural” (i.e. dialogue, exchange, communication, transfer, diversity, etc.). These are a few aspects of the European current queries that this issue of *Eurolimes* addressed.

The Journal is constructed around three central themes. In the first section, Georges Contogeorgis (Athens), Maria Manuela Tavares Ribeiro (Coimbra), Sharif Gemie (Glamorgan) and Maria Vekua (Tbilisi) examine “The Birth and Evolution of the Intercultural Frontiers”. Prof. Contogeorgis, in his article titled “Cultural Europe and Geopolitics”, looks into the nearing between the fields of culture and geopolitics immediately after WW II, taken further by the Cold War and the subsequent ending of the bipolar world and deepened by the “peculiar antagonistic tug-of-war between the European Union and the USA in the environment of globalization”. “The Europe of culture prevails over all political structure” reads Prof. Tavares Ribeiro’s article titled “Europe of Cultural Unity and Diversity”. The progress of society involves nowadays deep changes and deteriorations in the identity of each nation: lifestyle, economy, science, mass media, state structures (Church, army, university), and while knowing that the language is the irreplaceable support of cultures, the world has been facing a “certain Americanization of mass”. The paper argues that we cannot anymore speak of a European culture influencing national cultures, but of a Europe of cultures. Prof. Gemie contemplates the situations of the refugees in his article “Re-defining refugees: nations, borders and globalization. Starting off from the Malkki-Kibrian debate, the article gives the insight of what a refugee is and questions the “centrality of « home » to refugees”. We are offered two vantage points on the refugee, how the state treats the refugees and how the refugees see themselves. The Georgian Maria Vekua defends Georgia in the context of cultural communications, studying the background and the perspectives of cultural relations between Georgia and Europe, in her article “Georgia and Europe in the Context of Cultural Communications”.



The second section, “The Europe of Cultural Diversity and Intercultural Dialogue” houses four articles. “A few aspects on intercultural dialogue: interwar Romania as seen by the Portuguese Diplomat Martinho de Brederode” by Alina Stoica and Sorin Sipos (Oradea) reveals the interwar Romania through the eyes of a diplomat coming from the other end of Europe, in a precarious period ground by the effects of WW I. What precisely were the connections between Lisbon and Bucharest and how were they developed, if at all, are two questions to which this article attempts to identify documented answers. In the second article, “Rural cultural border”, Barbu Stefanescu (Oradea) studies the rural world and finds it contaminated by the “dominant urban”. The “cultural elements of archeocivilization, imprinted with past age traits” slowed down the transition to modern urban. The paper argues that Europe needs its identity elements, be they local, national or regional, and what better way to have such elements than to preserve and exploit the cultural heritage (rurality) of the entire Europe? On the same note, Chloe Maurel (Paris) makes an in-depth analysis of the UNESCO’s impact on the world cultural heritage (“From the East-West major project (1957) on the Convention on Cultural Diversity (2007): UNESCO and Cultural Borders”). Nicolae Paun and Georgiana Ciceo (Cluj-Napoca) look at Turkey’s possible accession to the EU in terms of comparison to Europeanness (“The limits of Europeanness. Can Europeanness stand alone as the only guiding criterion for deciding Turkey’s EU membership?”)

Last but not least, the third section titled “Artistic Intercultural Expression” contain three studies carried out by Didier Francfort, Denis Saillard and Jean-Sebastien Noel. In Didier Francfort’s “De l’histoire des frontières cultures à l’histoire culturelle des frontières et à l’histoire des cultures frontalières. Pour une rupture de perspective et de nouvelles approches”, we get familiar with the notion of cultural border by looking into international researches on human body related fields, such as dancing or cooking, then into the frontier imposed by music during the annexation of Moselle by Germany and then into the nowadays cinema. Denis Saillard’s “Nourritures et territoires en Europe. La gastronomie comme frontière culturelle” studies, as the title states, the links between food and territory, highlighting cultural transfers together with transnational features. Jean-Sebastien Noel, in “Klezmer “revivalisms” to the test of real or supposed cultural borders: the stakes of memory and objects of misunderstanding”, argues that Jewish discourses based on “roots” and “authenticity” raises in a very particular manner the “question of cultural borders as a question of representation”.

Section four houses the Focus Study done by Ioan Horga and Mircea Brie (Oradea) on “Europe: A cultural Border, or a Geocultural Archipelago”.

In addition to the aforementioned section, there are also sections containing book reviews, the Institute’s European projects (organization of international conferences) and last but not least, some words about the authors who published in this issue of *Eurolimes*.

All studies span in the direction of the new cultural frontiers of Europe, attempting to take up as many vantage points as possible. The Journal is useful for the general reader or researcher within international relations, European studies, history, anthropology or other related areas, presenting frameworks for analyzing these fields. The originality of the articles lies in the interdisciplinarity approach on the relationship between culture and geopolitics, an area which attracts increasing attention among scholars and students.

Dana BLAGA (E-mail: msdanielablaga@gmail.com)

Dorin CIMPOEȘU, *Republica Moldova între România și Rusia. 1989-2009 (The Republic of Moldova between Romania and Russia. 1989-2009)*, Ed. Casa Limbii Române Nichita Stănescu, Chișinău, 2010, ISBN: 978-9975-4129-0-2, 427 p.

This book represents the most comprehensive analysis on the internal developments of the Republic of Moldova and its relations with the Romania and Russia in the past two decades. The author, managed to cover this subject within a PhD thesis in History, defended in February 2010 at the University of Bucharest. His historical research exemplifies an interdisciplinary approach where elements of recent history, political science and international relations are gathered within a scientific structured book. More than that, the author's experience within the Romanian diplomatic mission in Moldova offer him a more deeply perspective Moldova's international relations.

The structure of the book, offers a comprehensive framework for the understanding of the geopolitical and historical positioning of Moldova in international relation. The introduction is focused on the historical background of Basarabia (Republic of Moldova) in the disputes between Romania and Russia. The first chapter emphasizes the preferences and interests of Romania and Russia toward the Republic of Moldova, as a territory that has been a permanent dispute between the imperialist ambitions of Moscow and a struggle for Romanian unity in the past two centuries. Also, the new international order set after the end of Cold War and the dissolution of Soviet Union, which allowed the expression Moldavian international identity and its independence, led to the formation of specific policies of the Moldavian neighboring states, especially Romania and Russia.

The internal political transformations of the Republic of Moldova are analyzed within the second chapter, suggestively entitled "The political governing in the recent history of Basarabia" (May 1990 – July 2009). The author makes deep analysis on the internal preference formation of each government and power coalitions, related to the overall Moldavian effort to enhance its democratic system and its identity. As it can be observed from the political context and political groups' preferences, the internal dynamics were always influenced by the support of either Russia, for neo-communists and Romania, for pro-europeans. The analysis is focused on internal elections, the successive governments' preferences and the political compromises among different political parties. A particular attention is focused on what the author name it as a "soviet communist restoration" after 2001, in the context of the ascension to power of Vladimir Voronin and the shifts in the internal and external policies of the Republic of Moldova.

The third chapter is dedicated on the Romanian - Moldavian bilateral relations during the center-right government that allow a more flexible approach on issues regarding the national identity of Republic of Moldova. One of the most delicate issue within the internal and international dynamics of Moldova - the Transdniestria region – is analyzed also within a distinctive chapter (Chapter four). This delicate issue is actually represent a case study that emphasizes the dependence of the Republic of Moldova on the external support and influence from the East and the West (Romania and Russia).

The relations between the Republic of Moldova and Romania during the communist restoration are investigated in the fifth chapter which underlines the turn of Moldova's preferences toward a more closed view on Moldavian identity. The



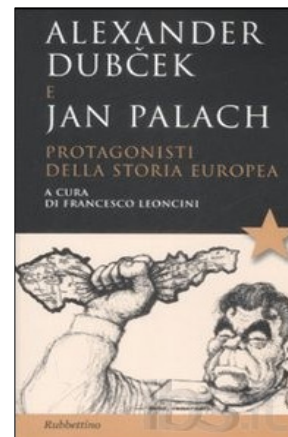
deterioration of bilateral relations and the political discourse between the officials is examined within the sixth chapter. Again, the issue of Transdniester region is scrutinized in the context of the communist regime in a distinctive chapter.

The overall approach used by Dorin Cimpoeșu in its book is historically based on political preferences. The sources, the bibliographical notes and the annexes are demonstrating a great effort of investigation. The book represents an excellent instrument for everyone who is interested in the understanding of the recent history of the Republic of Moldova. Still, we recommend a critical reading in order to overpass the author preferences that indicates a of degree subjectivity. This should be assumed as a deep emotional involvement of the author and his interest on the Romanian heritage of Moldavian identity.

Dorin I. DOLGHI (dolghi@igri.ro)

Alexander Dubček e Jan Palach. Protagonisti della storia europea, A cura di Francesco Leoncini, Rubbettino, 2009, 409 p., ISBN 078-88-498-2243-4

“Alexander Dubček e Jan Palach. Protagonisti della storia europea” est le titre du volume édité par Francesco Leoncini, professeur d’histoire des pays slaves et de l’histoire de l’Europe Centrale à l’Université Ca’ Foscari de Vénice et présenté le 9 février dans la Salle de Réunions du Palais Antonini de Udine, Italie. Le volume a été présenté dans le contexte de l’anniversaire de 20 ans après la chute des régimes communistes en Europe. Le nouveau livre soigné et préfacé par Francesco Leoncini est une contribution très innovatrice à la littérature de spécialité au sujet du Printemps Tchécoslovaque, par son organisation et notamment conception et par la richesse de la documentation.



Le volume est une compilation d’essais de nature philosophique, sociologique et historico-culturelle et offre une image générale sur les 8 mois pendant lesquels s’est déroulé l’expérience politique au-dessus mentionnée, mais également de la période immédiatement suivante à l’invasion. En même temps, nous trouvons une excellente mise en valeur et une très bonne explication de la situation internationale de ce temps-là, mais surtout de la position du Parti Communiste face aux événements. Une série d’interviews, qui en fait composent le volume en lui donnant de l’authenticité, nous confère l’image d’ensemble vis-à-vis des événements qui se sont succédés en ’68 et également ce ceux qui ont suit jusqu’à la Chute du Mur de Berlin. L’originalité du livre et ce qui le fait unique en fait est donné par les quelques confessions des personnages qui ont réellement pris part aux événements, mais aussi l’insertion iconographique existante.

Alexander Dubček et Jan Palach ne sont pas l’expression d’un pays ou d’un système de gouvernement disparu en ce moment, mais les protagonistes d’un épisode qui pose toujours des points d’interrogation à la conscience et à l’historiographie européenne. Ce chef d’œuvre, le fruit de plusieurs années de travail, est une contribution innovatrice vis-à-vis du Printemps Tchécoslovaque, notamment par la richesse des documents présentés. Dans le contexte politico-social-culturel de ce temps-là prend naissance le désir et la sollicitation du Jan Palach, adressé d’abord en contre de la gestion de la crise par Dubček, considérée défaitiste et qui accepte toutes les prétentions soviétiques, en essayant faire conscientiser les citoyens de ce qui allait se passer. Alexander Dubček et Jan Palach,

le chef d'Etat et l'étudiant, sont néanmoins les protagonistes de l'histoire ou d'un épisode de l'histoire, où un simple garçon veut par son geste de sacrifice suprême changer la conscience du peuple et la médiation politique, en se mettant dans le feu et en brûlant de vif dans le Marché Wenceslas de Prague. C'était sa manière de protester vis-à-vis de l'invasion de la Tchécoslovaquie par les troupes du Traité de Varsovie. L'invasion militaire des troupes conduites par l'URSS au mois d'août 1968 a eu l'intention de stopper la libération qui commençait à être introduite par le gouvernement d'Alexander Dubček par ce qu'on appelle le Printemps de Prague. Palach a été le premier d'un groupe d'étudiants qui ait fait un pacte de s'autoimmoler, mais la majorité d'étudiants a changé d'avis lorsque Jan Palach leur a raconté, en mourant, les douleurs qu'ils souffriront. Les autres deux étudiants qui ont respecté quand même le pacte et se sont autoimmolés ont été Jan Jajic et Evzen Plocek. Jan Palach a été considéré martyr, et pendant le régime communiste a été le symbole pour une Tchécoslovaquie libre.

Donc, par une succession originale d'interviews, le livre analyse le cadre international de ce période-là, la position du Parti communiste italien, l'année '68 et le développement des événements qui ont eu lieu jusqu'à la chute du Mur de Berlin, mais sans oublier que la „leçon” tchécoslovaque, même des années après, a toujours le pouvoir d'influencer et d'inspirer et de faire penser les gens.

Francesco Leoncini est parmi les plus originaux interprètes, sur le terrain international, de l'histoire tchèque, slovaque et de l'Europe centrale, ce qui est évident dans son volume. Son originalité réside justement dans sa capacité interprétative de placer la tradition culturelle tchèque et slovaque et de la rendre actuelle dans ce moment de crise pour le modèle néolibéralisme par un message d'humanisme démocratique et socialiste. L'idée transmise c'est qu'il faut toujours se souvenir des événements importants de l'histoire et qu'il faut noter également les sacrifices qui ont marqué certains moments. C'est ce qui nous fait plus sensibles et nous aide, peut-être, à ne pas répéter certaines erreurs du passé.

Mariana BUDA (mariana.buda@yahoo.com)

Sorin Şipoş, Mircea Brie, Ioan Horga, Igor Şarov, Ion Gumenâi (coord.), *Politici imperiale în Estul și Vestul Spațiului Românesc (Imperial Politics in the East and West of the Romanian Space)*, Editura Universității din Oradea & Editura Cartdidact din Chişinău, 2010, 583 p., ISBN 978-606-10-0190-3; ISBN 978-9975-4001-2-1.

The cooperation between the University of Oradea and the State University of Chisinau reached the publication of the third volume appeared as a result of joint conferences and that have the subject *Politici imperiale în estul și vestul spațiului românesc (Imperial Politics in the East and West of the Romanian Space)*. The volume was published as a result of the cooperation of State University from Chisinau, University of Oradea, the Centre for Transylvanian Studies from Cluj Napoca of the Romanian Academy and the Museum of Țării Crisurilor from Oradea.

The volume brings together more than 30 papers grouped in five sections: 1. Empires, models and imperial politics: issues and historiographies, 2. Politics, administration and society within the Empires from Middle Age, 3. Politics, administration and societies within the Empires



from Modern Epoch, 4. Constructions and Imperial strategies in Romanian space in XX century, 5. Consequences and echoes of imperial politics in recent history. Authors such as Emil Dragnev, Barbu Ștefănescu, Andrei Cușco, Victor Taki, Gabriel Moisa, Igor Șarov, Florin Sfrengu, Șerban Turcuș, Ioan-Aurel Pop, Ion Eremia, Mihai Georgiță, Sorin Șipoș, Florina Ciure, Ioan Ciorba, Bodo Edith, Cristian Apati, Valentin Tomuleț, Ion Gumenăi, Ludmila Coadă, Andreana Brândaș and Emilia-Adina Gale, Mircea Brie, Ovidiu Mureșan, Radu Românașu, Dana Pantea, Adrian – Claudiu Popoviciu, Octavian Țicu, Florentina Chirodea, Polgar Istvan, Gheorghe Palade, Antonio Faur, Teodor Candu, Penka Peeva, Alina Stoica, Mihai Drecin, Ion Zainea, Cristina Dogot, Sergiu Musteață, Titus Fizeșan, Ioan Horga, Dorin Ioan Dolghi, Luminița Șoproni, Constantin Țoca express interesting points of view related to the history of Romania and Bessarabia, found at the confluence of three great empires.

The papers presented in the volume includes topics such as byzantine inheritance in Eastern Europe, historical reality and historiographical ideas between the Austrian „iron yoke” and Turkish „wooden yoke”; construction of Bessarabia, Imperial and National models; historiographical imperialism at East and West of Romania; Russian historiography between political and historical discourse; anti-imperial attitudes in Latin-Hungarian chronicles; *Dominus totius mundi*, Christianitas and Transylvania at the beginning of XIII century; The politics directed against the „schismatics” from Transylvania and western parts in XIVth century; the Moldavian – Russian treaty from 1656; Confession, religion and society under the Turkish rule in Oradea; the religious policy of the Court of Vienna in the Principality of Transylvania (1692-1701): the case of Romanians; between Habsburgs and Ottomans: Francisc Rákóczi II in the light of newly discovered venetian documents; measures of combating hunger from the first half of XVIII th century – beginning of XIXth century; the effects of the politics of protection of Austrian state on the peasantry from Bihor; the implementation of matricol protocols in orthodox parishes from Bihor (1779-1847); Repercussions of the regime of tsarist domination on the genesis and evolution of the commercial bourgeoisie from Bessarabia (1812-1830); The confessional politics as an element of denationalization seen by imperial Russian strategies at its western boundaries; the impact of Imperial politics on the periphery: the role and the place of the institution of zemstva in Bessarabian society; Orthodox reaction to the politics of catholicization. Other papers are focusing on the following topics: Juridical regulations concerning the family in Austrian and Hungarian legislation from the second half of XIX th century, Romanian projects of federalization in XIXth century and at the beginning of XX century; Austro-Hungarian School Politics in Transylvania and the attitude of Romanian Parliament (1890-1907); The image of England in the activity and stories of Romanian diplomats in XIXth century; European Commission of Danube (CED), functionalist model in international relations arena; Bessarabia from Russian empire to Greater Romania: A study of Interdependency between the process of integration and the Soviet interference; Law Academy of Oradea during the period of transition from Hungarian authorities to the Romanian ones (1919-1921); A Romanian-Hungarian political dispute: the count Istvan Bethlen about the historical mission of Hungary in Central Europe and Balkans; The impact of Soviet rapt from June 28 1940 on the intellectuality from Bessarabia; Reports of French diplomats about the Soviet ultimatum in the summer of the year 1940; From the history of the administrative-territorial organization after the setting free of Bessarabia from the Soviet occupation. Case study: Vasieni village, Lapusna county (July 1941-March 1942); The 1945 Moscow Conference and the United States Policy on the Diplomatic Recognition of Bulgarian and Romanian Governments; The postbelic crisis and its repercussions on the

daily life in Romania, in the view of Martinho de Brederode; The External Politics of Popular –Democrat Romania from obedience to Moscow to national demnity (1958-1968); The historical speech related to the territory from Eastern Romanian space, in the years 1966-1977, and the censorship. A comparative perspective; Romanian public administration from communism to reform and Euroopenization; The teaching of history in the Republic of Moldova and the tentatives of adherence to Soviet imperialist practices; The failure of a mediation between two imperialisms – OSCE and the frozen conflicts from ex-Soviet space; Imperial Trends in Global International Society; Political Geography in the area of Black Sea. The role of Romania; The Empires of communication – global campaigns that lead the world; Oradea -crossborder city – a historical analysis.

The volume offers a view on the history of Romania and Republic of Moldova on a large segment of time, starting with the antiquity and ending with the contemporary times and recent history. The analyze is elaborated, detailed, precise and many of the aspects presented in this volume treat in detail subjects that are not generally known by the large public. The book successfully completes the missing pages in Romanian and Bessarabian history because of the lack of information about the common past of the two countries pursued during Soviet era.

Anca OLTEAN (olteananca@hotmail.com)

Ukraine - Romania - Moldavia: Historical, Political and Cultural Aspects of Their Relations in the Contemporary European Processes Context. Collection of scientific articles. Volume III, 480 p., ISBN 978-966-399-196-2, edited by Bukovynian Centre of Political Studies, 2009

This book is the result of international collaborations between the University's of Ukraine, Romania and Moldavia, that present an article or an research at the International Scientific Conference <*Ukraine – Romania – Moldavia: Historical, Political and Cultural Aspects of Their Relations in the Contemporary European Processes Context*> trough 18 – 19 September 2007 at the Yuriy Fed'kovych Chernivtsi National University in Ukraine.

The volume was published in 2009. It is divided into 5 chapters, each one focused on a different aspect of the Ukraine – Romania – Moldavia relation. The first chapter is entitled *Ukraine – Romania – Moldavia Relations: Lessons of the historical experience*, and includes articles from Teofil Rendiuc, Iuri Makar, Tadeu Yațeniuk and studies from Bogdan Bodnariuk, Marian Tokar and Sorin Șipoș. The studies and articles present the relations, changes, political situation and human development and integration of the 3 countries in different time points, from the late middle ages and 18th century testimonials of the French officer Lazowski till the 2002 tally in Romania. In the second chapter *Safe Dimension of the Relations: Energy and military-political aspects*, we are taken to problems more of the contemporary issues from a security point of view, focusing on military collaborations and energetic collaborations, for the 3 countries. The articles are from Galina Drozdova, Evheny Burdelny, Viktor Petrov , Oleksandr Pelin and Oksana Ivats, which have a very long experience on the researched fields. The article of Galina Drozdova is axed on the post soviet situation of the



Ukraine and Moldavia. Evheny Burdelny talks about the migration from an EU point of view. Viktor Petrov article presents the long road of the Romanian Integration in EU and that is should be consider a guide book for the Integration of Ukraine in the EU structures. Oleksandr Pelin and Oksana Ivats article shows that Ukraine different regions could collaborate not only economical but political with countries that are form the Black Baltic-See Axe, better than with the Counties of the Mediterranean Black See Axe. The third chapter *Politically-Legal, Socially-Economical and Social Relations between Ukraine, Romania and Moldova, their European Integral Constituent* has articles referring to the political, economic and social relations according to the future integrations in EU structures of the tree states relating in relation one with the other and separated. From the point of view of Vira Burdiyak, Valentyna Teosa, Valeriy Moshnjaga, Serghiy Palihovych, Vladlen Makukh, Adriy Balynskyi, Olga Surnina, Serhiy Hacman, Evheniya Yuriychuk, Mircea Brie, Ioan Horga and Vasyl Veren'ko. The article of Vira Burdiyak focuses on a new trend that all the post soviet countries are on the European Union Integration. The articles present the steps that the 3 states took to get closer to their goal. The Valeriy Moshnjaga article presents the evolution of the Moldova – European Union relations and the importance of being member of an international structure like the European Union. The Mircea Brie and Ioan Horga article encourages the Ukraine and Romania to take advantage of the Regional Development Programmes to stimulate Cross-border Collaboration. The fourth chapter *Formation of the Joint Approaches towards Studying and Practicing of administration of the Ethno-National Processes in Relations between Ukraine, Romania and Moldova* is focused on the articles that studied the Ethno-National relations between the tree states and the way those relations are directed to develop a better human collaboration and understanding from an European Integration point of view. The articles authors are Yuriy Ostapets, Natalya Rotar, Nadiya Babych, Anatoliy Kruglashov, Constantin Tkachyov, Irina Petrova, Igor Gavrada and Natalya Nechayeva-Yuriychuk. The chapter has only internal point of view, missing external ones. The Natalya Rotar article presents the situation from a ethnic and national point of view regarding the component of the Ukraine political parties in the 2006 and 2007 Parliamentary elections. Igor Gavrada shows in his articles that the Chernivtsi Oblast area, from an mass media point, has a very high tolerance to intercultural relations. The fifth chapter *Cultural, Scientific and Educational dimensions of the relations between Ukraine, Romania and Moldova* presents the human aspects of the bilateral and multilateral collaborations between the three states. The authors of the articles are Anatoly Lysiuk, Anatoliy Kruglashov, Volodymyr Eftemiy, Oleksandr Korol, Alexandru Nedelea, Yaroslav Kirpushko and Alena Dimchuk. The article written by Oleksandr Korol, Alexandru Nedelea is a comparative analysis of the tourism development in Ukraine and Romania from different points of view.

In the end I would like to highlight that this book, has highly academic statute and if you are interested in the Ukraine-Romania-Moldavia relations this is the book you don't want to miss.

Andrei GUG (e-mail: gug@igri.ro)

Nicolae Toboşaru, *Parteneriatul Strategic dintre Romania si SUA (The Strategic Partnership between Romania and the USA)*, Presa Universitară Clujeană, 2010, 528 p., ISBN 978-973-595-112-2

The book represents and is the result of many years of assiduous research materialized in a PhD thesis which was presented at the University of Oradea. It takes on a unique role of exploring a recent and delicate topic. The author analyses Romania's transition process from a communist society to a capitalist one. This process involved the reformation of the Romanian society through implementation of democratic values and integration into the western fundamental institutional structures such as NATO and the EU, and finally into a Strategic Partnership with the USA. The latter proved to be a positive influence over the two national objectives. The study focuses primarily on the period between 1997 and 2008 and comprises the revelation of historical, geopolitical and geo-economic and strategic aspects. The publication portrays the significance of Romania from a geopolitical point of view. It plays the role of an eastern European *limes* as an operator in the eastern flank.



The book is divided into four chapters: targeting the problem of the historiography, the historical landmarks, the history of the Strategic Partnership between Romania and the US and finally, its geopolitical significance. It is preceded by the foreword of the former president of Romania – Emil Constantinescu. The author outlines the circumstances and historical foundations along with doctrinal and strategic parameters. He identifies and characterizes the partnership's identity, conceptual and functional parameters. The author also aims for the objectives, directions of action, principles, work tools and mechanisms used, the evolution stages, the actors, resources involved and finally, the results.

The work demonstrates with its bibliography the lack of publications focused on this issue both in Romania and in the United States. This aspect is conveyed in the first part of the book.

In the second part, the author questions on an important issue: is this partnership a natural result of an evolution into a logical historical development of bilateral relations, or is it just an accidental and spontaneous aspect? According to the research, Nicolae Tobosaru concludes it is by no chance an accident, but a corollary of a rising trend line marked by a new chapter written in the history of Romanian-American diplomatic relations. His arguments emphasize on the historical relations between the two states, which began in 1850 when the first American consul travelled to Romania, continuing with the visit of the American president, Richard Nixon to Bucharest in 1969, and culminating with the initiative of the Romanian part of a Strategic Partnership. The paper has the merit of giving fluency to events that were often disparate, which is the result of countless hours of research, patience and clear thinking of the author for the interpretation of some delicate materials.

In the third part, *The History of the Strategic Partnership between Romania and USA*, the author deals with the nature of the semantics of theoretical, political and diplomatic partnerships. He agrees on a minimalist definition for the meaning of a partnership: an association of two entities for achieving common goals or convergent, by their nature and resources deployed to achieve the objectives that could have strategic

significance. This kind of relationship allows the overcoming of political, economic or strategic barriers. This aspect was put into practice by the US at the end of the 20th century, with the disappearance of the bipolarity and affirmation of the American monopole.

In Romania, all three presidential mandates included in the period between 1997 and 2008 are presented in their process of strengthening the strategic partnership between Romania and the USA. The Constantinescu administration managed to change the status of Romania from being a US partner to a direct strategic partner, starting July 22 1997. It can be noticed that starting with the accession of Romania into the EU on January 1, 2007, the position of the Strategic Partnership in security and foreign policy documents of strategic orientation is diminished. This is explained by the author as a superficial political trend of diminishing the pro-American perception of Romania and emphasizing instead on community solidarity.

In the fourth part, *The Significance of the Geopolitical Strategic Partnership between Romania and USA*, the author focuses on the geopolitical aspect of the partnership, the implications of this relation upon the post-December geopolitical profile of Romania, and on the geopolitical and strategic implications of the partnership upon the relations of Romania with the EU. The arguments revolve around Romania's geographical, economic, strategic and demographic coordinates, which place the country in the South-Eastern European and Black Sea region. It represents an Eastern European border, where the Romanian-American relations have clear and significant geopolitical valences with extended effects in sub-regional, regional and even global level.

In conclusion, it can be alleged that Romania has correctly appreciated the security of the Euro-Atlantic region as unbreakable and the dilemma of the Euro-Atlantism versus Europeanization is false. Nevertheless, the Strategic Partnership with the USA is a necessary and accessible way of supporting Romania's struggle to adhere to European values and institutions. It was not conceived as an alternative to Romania's position outside the first wave of the Alliance's expansion or as a gift. On the contrary, it serves both partners and represents a necessity for the parties involved.

Lia DEREICHEI (dereichei@igri.ro)

Romanian Journal of Security Studies, Volume 1, No.1, Fall 2010, Oradea University Press, ISSN 2069-0703, 100 p. (www.rjss.ro)

The most recent academic journal that emerged within the Oradea University represents an editorial project in security studies, organized around the MA program in European Security, at the Faculty of History, Geography and International Relations. As security studies has known a transfer from specialized institutions toward public universities, there is a need to cover the scientific debate on different approaches of security issues in the international and national contexts. The Romanian Journal of Security Studies aims to gather scientific papers, research results, analysis and opinions related to national, regional and international security environment in order to engage visions of security challenges within a scientific debate. The *RJSS* aims to promote an interdisciplinary approach of security issues to cover the whole spectrum of scientific



perspectives that can contribute to a comprehensive framework for a better understanding of influences and interdependencies of all types of risks, threats and vulnerabilities.

The first issue of *Romanian Journal of Security Studies* is dedicated to the dimensions of the European security and gathers seven articles that underline different approaches of security, from different perspectives. We notice that the Foreword is signed by the former Romanian President Emil Constantinescu who brings his arguments for the need and opportunity of the journal within academic and societal debates.

The first article is signed by Napoleon Pop, and is dedicated on the economic-financial crisis and its impact on international security. The economic aspects related to security suggest a deep influence of economics in the configuration of preferences and expectations related to security. Another article is investigating the transformation of intelligence and it brings arguments for a shift in the perception and role of intelligence in the contemporary political national and international system. The author, Gen. (ret.) Mihaiu Mărgărit, as a former Chief of Romanian Military Intelligence, uses his expertise to underline the importance of intelligence within a democratic system but also suggest the need for transformation.

Dacian Duna contributes with a paper on the Common Foreign and Security Policy in the integration theories. His investigation relates different theoretical approaches that can explain and relate security dimensions of the European integration. The transatlantic dimension of Romania's trans-Atlantic dimension of national security strategies is evaluated by Nicolae Toboşaru and emphasizes the overall transformation of the Romanian security system in the context of Romania –US partnership and the Romania's integration into NATO. Dorin Dolghi is questioning the security identity in the European Union, from a constructivist perspective and suggests that the EU experience leads toward a transfer of the national oriented preferences toward a supranational/European level, from the perspectives of the citizens.

The governance of security in contemporary international relations is analyzed by Claudiu Țabrea who addresses this issue to the theoretical and analytical debate. His arguments used to underline the governance of security suggest that there is a need for a major shift in the perception and the management of the security issues in international environment. Another dimension of security is addressed to unconventional threats that in this case are related to natural disasters and their approach as a security concern. To this end, the article proposed by Ana Zamfor investigates the floods in Romania, between a national problem and a European alert.

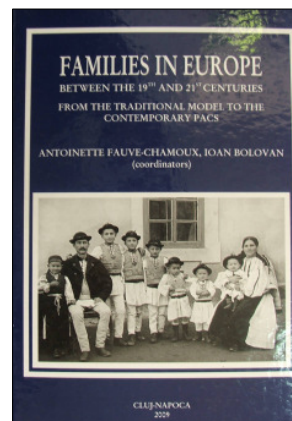
The overall structure of the first issue of RJSS emphasize the importance of such a debate in academic community and civil society, especially that in the past decade there is a major turn from military approaches to a more societal oriented approaches. Also, the journal can be a useful instrument to develop new directions of scientific investigation on security matters that have been ignored or insufficiently addressed in the Romanian university system. We can expand this statement on the overall European scientific community.

Elena ZIERLER (zierler@igri.ro), **Lia DEREICICHEI** (dereicichei@igri.ro)

Antoinette Fauve - Chamoux, Ioan Bolovan (coord), *Families in Europe between 19th and 21st centuries. From the traditional model to the contemporary PACS*, Presa universitară clujană, Cluj-Napoca, 2009, ISBN 978-973-610-931-7, 818 p.

The book “*Families in Europe between 19th and the 21st centuries. From the traditional model to contemporary PACS*” published under the coordination of Antoinette Fauve-Chamoux and Ioan Bolovan in 2009 approaches various subjects related to the history of European families between 19th and 21st centuries, such as family models in historical perspective, fertility and reproductive behaviour in Europe between 19th -21st centuries, church and family, state and family, the dissolution of the family in past and present and family diversity.

Authors from Romania and abroad present interesting studies related with the history, evolution, models, character of families in Eastern and Western Europe. Such authors are: Jan Kok, Adrian Silvan Ionescu, Ljiljana Stankov, Dana Maria Rus, Rozeta Bici, Barbu Ștefănescu, Dalia Leinarte, Emil Țîrcomnicu, Tünde Turai, Péter Őri, Lumir Dokoupil, Ludmila Nesládková, Radek Lipovski, Carmen Albert, Siegfried Gruber, Catherine Sumnall, Peter Teibenbacher, Ferene Ajus, Wilko Schröter, Traian Rotariu, Lavinia Popp, Maria Cojocar, Florica Ștefănescu, Adrian Hatos, Mihaela Hărăguș, Constanța Vintilă – Ghițulescu, Marius Eppel, Gabriel Gâdan, Rebecca Kippen, Valeria Soroștineanu, Lucian Dorel Turcu, Andra Carola Pinca, Corneliu Pădurean, Oleksandra Macmillan, Jelena Lakus, Daniela Deteșan, Diana Covaci, Elena Crinela Holom, Alina Ciupală, Ioan Bolovan, Sorina Paula Bolovan, Claudia Septimia Peteanu, Bogdan Crăciun, Mircea Brie, Nicoleta Roman, Luminița Dumănescu, Simona Adam, Nagy Imola Katalin, Șarolta Solcan, Anca Dohotariu, Eugen C. Ghiță, Zsolt Vasile Grigoruț, Laurențiu Ovidiu Roșu. They present interesting lectures on topics related with families in Europe in past and present.



An interesting study is the one written of Jan Kok, *Family systems as frameworks for Understanding Variation in Extra-marital births, Europe 1900-2000*. The author presents the situation of Family and Extra-marital births in Netherlands and Romania. He analyzes these aspects for the period 1900-2000. He makes a comparison between these two countries and his research results was that in Netherlands the rates of extramarital births were the lowest in Europe while in Romania was the highest in Europe. This situation was possible, considers the author, because in Romania to give birth to an illegitimate child was not perceived as something negative, while in Netherlands the society tried to stop extra-marital relations.

Adrian-Silvan Ionescu describes the situation of Romanian Family during transition times, 1800-1859. In those times, divorces were frequent, „the partners were often changed and nobody thought this is an immoral habit”. Infidelity was often encountered.

Ljiljana Stankov in the article *The Foundation of a Family - Comprehension and Advice on the Pages of a Female Magazine The Housewife (1879-1941)* describes the situation of the magazine *The Housewife* of the first Serbian Women Association. She makes a portrait of the role of this organization: “The magazine had an active role in the field of women progress, but a lot of space was dedicated to female role in family life, marriage preparations, advice on raising daughters, the positive and negative characteristics of future brides, female features that should be stimulated or controlled,

etc. The authors were the educated women (writers, teachers, professors, actresses), but also the men, assistants - professors, priests, writers. The article were also about the female position in other European societies”.

In the article of Dana-Maria Rus, *PACS – a Valid Alternative for Traditional Marriage?* She talks about the fact that consensual unions, concubinaje and PACS (Civil Solidarity Pact) tend to replace the concept of traditional marriage. The author describes PACs as „a contract signed by two major individuals of different or same-sex in order to organize their common life”. The unions are more and more frequent in Western Europe.

Rozeta Bici writes the article *The Establishment of Albanian Families between the 19th and the 21th centuries in the frame of British Case Study*. The study makes a comparison between Albanian society and the British one. In both societies family is an important value.

Barbu Ștefănescu emphasize the problem of cohabitation in bread that means that brothers or sons who marry continue to live with their parents. The Austrian state wanted to tax as may properties as possible, but in the rural world, the practice was to keep the number of properties reduced.

Péter Óri in the article *Marriage customs and Household structure in Hungary at the end of the 18th century. The case of county Pest-Pilis-Solt (1774-1785)* describes firstly the household structure and then the marriage customs. In Hungary, both Eastern and Western models of marriage were encountered.

In the article *Family models in Banat (19th -20th century)*, Carmen Albert shows how it decreased the population of Banat because of the practices of its inhabitants in 19 and 20 century. Also the Hungaria families from Banat faced the phenomenon. Together with infant mortality and the rate of deaths, the decrease of population in Banat was established.

In the article of Ferenc Ajus, *Fertility, modernization, religion and land availability in Transylvania, 1900-1910*, it is underlined that the period of 1880-1910 was the period of modernization and industrialization in Transylvania. In the south part of Transylvania it started the fertility decline while in north it was an increase rate of fertility. The society was affected by infant mortality, migration, literacy, secularization.

In the article of Wilko Schröter, *Overview about the German Fertility Development, Theoretical Models and Effects of Pro-Natalistic Population Politics*, it is described the historical development of fertility in Germany, from XVIII century till the years 1950-1960 with the baby boom, then with the decrease in the fertility rate. Approximately one third of the women born after 1965 have no children.

In the article of Traian Rotariu, *Marital and Extramarital Fertility in Latter-Day Romania* the author analyzes the extramarital births in Romania. The biggest number of extra-marital births are encountered at women of less than 20 years old who do not have the compulsory level of education. The childrens, in this case, are not planified.

Lavinia Elisabeta Popp and Maria Cojocaru in the article *Causes contributing to the Decrease of Fertility in Contemporary Families* mention among the cases contributing to the decrease of fertility, about abortion which is influenced by economic factors. In opposition, there are families reluctant to have children but with a high economic status. Another cause of abortion come from dismembered families.

In the article of Mihaela Hărăguș, *Different Reproductive Patterns in Romania: An Urban-Rural Comparison* shows that, in rural areas, fertility was higher than in urban areas. In 2005, the author shows that, in rural environment, the rate of fertility was 1.55 while in urban environment was 1.17 and explains the causes for which the rural environment was more favourable for reproductive patterns.

Constanța Vintilă-Ghițulescu in the article *Church and Domestic Order in Romanian Society (1750-1834)* explains the features of the relation between state-church-family during the period 1750-1834. The church continued to keep its privileged of judging and sentencing in cooperation with the state which applied its decision.

Ioan Bolovan and Sorina Paula Bolovan in the article *The impact of World War I on the family in Transylvania* emphasizes the fact that the sons and husbands being left on the front, the family of the husband tries to involve more and more in the life of the daughter in law. The family life was affected by the war and the conditions of the time. After the war, family life in Transylvania went back to normal.

Mircea Brie in the article *Male and Female Authority in Traditional Rural Society* asserts that wives and husbands had their particular role and attributions in traditional rural society. The author's opinion was that the community and the church were on the side of the man. The women has authority in the field of household. The author talks about a triple relationship husband-wife-land. The life of the individual is influenced by weather and nature. The author asserts that in traditional rural society „There are two types of relationships between the spouses. 1. The case of those under their parent, relatives, customs watch, when the woman has an inferior status; 2. The case of those emancipated, „evading” the traditional, when the husband accepts woman's „equality”.

The article of Luminița Dumănescu, *Child raising practices in Transylvania in the second half of the 19th century* reffers to aspects from child life concerning its food, clothing, hygiene and psychical care, diseases and attitudes towards them. The authors provided us an image about how the children were raised in the past.

In the article of Nagy Imola Katalin about *19th century family life and women's roles in Transylvanian literatures*, the author compares the novel of Ioan Slavici, *Mara*, and Janos Kemeny, *The witch of Waters*.

The other papers focus also on the issues of family and society in past and present. The book is worth reading for the elaborated approaches of the authors who reconstitutes the life of the individual in traditional societies, but also in the contemporary world.

Anca OLTEAN (olteananca@hotmail.com)