

## BOXERS' UPRISING IN CHINA (1900) REFLECTED BY THE ROMANIAN PRESS OF THAT TIME

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At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> the attention of the European public opinion has been drawn by new moments and tensioned aspects from the Far East on the background of the expansion and defining more clearly divergent political and economic interests of European powers, United States of America and Japan, regarding South-East Asia. One of these moments of broad impact in the public consciousness is represented by the boxers' uprising in China which reached its climax in 1900.

The Events in China at the turn of the nineteenth-twentieth centuries have their well defined explanations in the universal historiography. It has been shown, fully justified, that these events fall within the broad landscape of the period 1860-1911, a period marked by reform movements, deep internal problems, and often brutal interference of great powers in the affairs of the Chinese Empire<sup>1</sup>, interference that brought about numerous conflicts of smaller or larger scale like the second war of the opium.

Noteworthy is that all attempts of reform in that period failed, largely because of the same reasons: conservative opposition in China, less willing to tolerate innovation in the Chinese society, lack of domestic capital, corruption and, last but not least, the continuously increasing popularity of different revolutionary movements on the background of the growing discontent of the people regarding the increasingly aggressive foreign penetration in all spheres of social and economic life<sup>2</sup>. Specific to the boxers' movement was the obvious anti-Christian aspect manifested throughout the turmoil of 1899-1901, but already visible after the mid-nineteenth century<sup>3</sup>. Moreover, it must not be ignored any virulent reaction of the traditional cults in China such as Confucianism.

All these causes are presented and commented at length in the European

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<sup>1</sup> **The Cambridge History of China**, vol. II – **Late Ch'ing, 1800-1911**, Part 2, edited by John K. Fairbank and Kwang Ching Liu, Cambridge-London-New York-New Rochelle-Melbourne-Sydney, Cambridge University Press, 1980, p. 115-116; **The New Cambridge Modern History**, volume XII – **The Shifting Balance of World Forces 1898-1945**. A second edition of Volume XII **The Era of Violence**. Edited by C. L. Mowat, Cambridge at the University Press, 1968, p. 113-114.

<sup>2</sup> **The Cambridge History of China**, p. 117.

<sup>3</sup> **Ibidem**, p. 116.

press of the time, the Romanian press not being an exception. The major Romanian periodicals allocated appropriate space for presenting and analyzing the events in China. The abundance of information increased, of course, as the events were foreshadowing a conflict of scale, whose protagonists were the great powers of that moment, the European powers, the United States of America and Japan.

Regarding the causes of the disorders provoked by the boxers' uprising, it may be noticed a certain resemblance to the way they were judged and appreciated. There are two of them which are more important, with all the consequences they imply: the foreign economic domination of China and, especially, the Catholic proselytizing violently accused, in some articles, of the great resurgence of the events<sup>4</sup>. There are also pointed out the interests and the misunderstandings among the European Great Powers, the United States of America and Japan<sup>5</sup>.

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<sup>4</sup> **Gravele evenimente din China/The Serious Events in China**, in *Adevărul*, Bucharest, XIII, no. 3892, May 29<sup>th</sup> 1900, p. 1; **Incendiile și masacrele din China/The Fires and the Massacres in China**, in no. 3935, July 11<sup>th</sup> 1900, p. 1; **Cauzele răscoalei chineze/The Causes of the Chinese Uprising**, in no. 3935, July 11<sup>th</sup> 1900, p. 1.

<sup>5</sup> **Încurcăturile din China/The Entanglements in China**, in *Conservatorul*, Bucharest, I, no. 91, April 11<sup>th</sup> 1901, p. 1; *Adevărul*, Bucharest, XIII, no. 3794, February 19<sup>th</sup> 1900, p. 3; **Interesele puterilor în China/The Interests of the Powers in China**, in no. 3898, June 4<sup>th</sup> 1900, p. 1; *Voința națională*, Bucharest, XVII, no. 4585, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, May 25<sup>th</sup> (June 7<sup>th</sup>) 1900, p. 1-2; no. 4593, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, June 4<sup>th</sup> (17<sup>th</sup>) 1900, p. 2; *Timpul*, Bucharest, XXII, no. 216, September 29<sup>th</sup>/October 12<sup>th</sup> 1900, p. 1; see also no. 224, October 8<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> 1900, p. 1; **Afacerea Chinei în parlamentul Germaniei/The China's Business in the Parliament of Germany**, in *Resboiul*, Bucharest, XXIV, no. 7668, November 10<sup>th</sup> 1900, p. 3; no. 7704, December 24<sup>th</sup> 1900, p. 3; **Înțeleapta politică a Angliei în China/The Wise Politics of England in China**, in the column *Chestii zilnice/Daily Things*, in *Universul*, Bucharest, XVIII, no. 207, July 30<sup>th</sup> 1900, p. 1; **Rusia și China/Russia and China**, in *Gazeta Transilvaniei*, Brașov, LXIII, no. 78, April 6<sup>th</sup> (18<sup>th</sup>) 1900, p. 3; **Evenimentele din China/The Events in China**, in no. 136, June 18<sup>th</sup> (July 1<sup>st</sup>) 1900, p. 3; **Forțele Rusiei în Asia/Russia's Forces in Asia**, in no. 149, July 6<sup>th</sup> (19<sup>th</sup>) 1900, p. 3; *Democratul*, Ploiești, XXIV, no. 1638, June 11<sup>th</sup> 1900, p. 3; no. 1639, June 15<sup>th</sup> 1900, p. 2; **Un discurs imperial/An Imperial Discourse**, in no. 1649, July 23<sup>rd</sup> 1900, p. 1; **Rusia în Asia-Orientală/Russia in Oriental Asia**, in *Drapelul*, Bucharest, III, no. 827, March 17<sup>th</sup> 1900, p. 1; **Evenimentele din China/The Events in China**, in no. 877, May 21<sup>st</sup> 1900, p. 1; **Situațiunea în China/The Situation in China**, III, no. 882, May 27<sup>th</sup> 1900, p. 1; Foreign, **Deschiderea piețelor chineze/The Opening of the Chinese Markets**, in *Epoca*, Bucharest, VI, no. 1269-75, March 19<sup>th</sup> 1900, evening edition, p. 1; Trad., **Acțiunea comercială a Japonezilor în China/The Japanese' Commercial Action in China**, in no. 152-128, May 13<sup>th</sup> 1900, evening edition, p. 2; Foreign, **Politica Rusiei față de China/Russia's Politics Towards China**, in no. 1479-288, October 20<sup>th</sup> 1900, evening edition, p. 1; De Retz, **Chestiunea**

After it became clear that a large scale conflict was taking shape in Far East, a conflict which could have serious repercussions on the international situation<sup>6</sup>, the Romanian press, in its whole, gave an important place to telegrams and information received from their correspondents or by telegraph, as well as the articles and the comments made by the foreign press (from England, France, Germany, the United States of America etc.).

The development of the events, regarding both the military operations and the political and diplomatic events, was promptly brought into the Romanian public opinion by means of the above mentioned media within some specialized columns<sup>7</sup>, numerous articles and larger or shorter notes.

Noteworthy is the fact that, in the overall accounts that can be found in the Romanian press of the time, different issues referring to the evolution of the conflict present not only the state of the European continent, but also the situation of the Romanian state of the time, some of which might be regarded as quite interesting. Therefore, the tensions in China entailed a certain analysis regarding the Romanian export opportunities in the remote Asian territory, starting from the example provided by other European states. It was also proposed an appropriate diplomatic representation in the region – in India, China and Japan<sup>8</sup>. Moreover, following the example of the foreign press, the Romanian press published interesting articles by means of which it underlined the extraordinary demographic and economic potential in the Far East<sup>9</sup> and the danger, mainly economic, represented for the old continent<sup>10</sup>. This kind of

**Manciuriei/The Manchurian Question**, in VII, no. 1624-75, March 18<sup>th</sup> 1901, evening edition, p. 1; idem, **Presa engleză și afacerile chineze/The English Press and the Chinese Affaires**, in no. 1692-142, May 28<sup>th</sup> 1901, evening edition, p. 1.

<sup>6</sup> **Resboi în China/War in China**, in *Gazeta Transilvaniei*, Braşov, LXIII, no. 128, June 9<sup>th</sup> (22<sup>nd</sup>) 1900, p. 2; *Voinţa naţională*, Bucharest, XVII, no. 4583, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, May 23<sup>rd</sup> (June 5<sup>th</sup>) 1900, p. 2.

<sup>7</sup> The periodical called *Constituţionalul* had the permanent column **Buletin extern/External Bulletin**; *Adevărul* had the columns **Depeşile „Adevărului”/The Dispatches of „Adevărul”** and **Politica în streinătate/The Policy Abroad**; *Voinţa naţională* had the column **Revolta din China/The Revolt in China**, while in *Resboiul* we encounter the column called **Evenimentele din China/The Events in China**.

<sup>8</sup> **Evenimentele din China şi criza/The Events in China and the Crisis**, in *Drapelul*, Bucharest, III, no. 885, June 1<sup>st</sup> 1900, p. 1; **Comerţul României cu extremul orient/The Commerce of Romania with the Far East**, in *Adevărul*, Bucharest, XIII, no. 4093, December 16<sup>th</sup> 1900, p. 1-2.

<sup>9</sup> I. Simionescu, **De-ale industriei**, in *Adevărul*, Bucharest, XIII, no. 3814, March 10<sup>th</sup> 1900, p. 1; *Universul*, Bucharest, XVIII, no. 202, July 25<sup>th</sup> 1900, p. 1; **Comerţul Chinei/China's Commerce**, in *Voinţa naţională*, Bucharest, XVII, no. 4595, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, June 7<sup>th</sup> (20<sup>th</sup>) 1900, p. 2.

<sup>10</sup> **Europa şi China/Europe and China**, in *Gazeta Transilvaniei*, Braşov, LXIII, no.

analysis can be found in *Adevărul* newspaper from June 15<sup>th</sup> 1900: „In the worst case – more likely – when China adopts, as Japan did, the European civilization, Europe prepares itself an incalculable disaster. Adding steam and electricity to the labor force, material intelligence and the Chinese' great abilities for commerce and industry, China will become, shortly, the most important factor in production and international exchange and Europe will be ruined for ever.

The wisest thing for Europe would be that it found the means to withdraw itself from China in an honorable way, reserving only the freedom of commerce on the coast line. By this a bloody war against the Chinese would be avoided, a frightening war between the great peoples and also the economic ruin of the whites”<sup>11</sup>.

Among the accounts which have as a reference point the tense situation in the Far East an important place is allotted to the so called articles of popularization, more and more numerous as the conflict was growing, a fact underlined by the Romanian journalists: „The boxers' uprising and the European intervention in China bring about interest regarding everything that refers to the Chinese”<sup>12</sup>. In this kind of articles one can trace the press' interest as well as the public opinion's interest in our country regarding a zone considered somehow exotic for Europeans, although subjects of this kind were found in the Romanian press in the late half of the nineteenth century – the second war of opium, the Sino-Japanese conflict, the Anglo-Bur conflict (in progress at the moment the conflict in China started). Different aspects of life, culture and society specific to the Chinese area are dealt with and presented to the public for a better report and understanding of the events in progress and also to create a true picture about the opponents of the moment: “Although

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130, June 11<sup>th</sup> (24<sup>th</sup>) 1900, p. 2; **Pericolul galben/The Yellow Danger**, in *Conservatorul*, Bucharest, I, no. 99, April 20<sup>th</sup> 1901, p. 1.

<sup>11</sup> *Adevărul*, Bucharest, XIII, no. 3909, June 15<sup>th</sup> 1900, p. 1. There is no shortage of sensational and commercial accents. The same periodical, taking and summing up an article from an English newspaper, mentions the opinions of an English man, Sir Robert Hart, who had lived in China for twenty years and foresaw the boxers' victory, China's raise at all levels and, finally, a fight between the white and yellow races – see the article called **Primejdia galbenă/The Yellow Danger**, in *Adevărul*, Bucharest, XIII, no. 4037, October 21<sup>st</sup> 1900, p. 1. About the same Robert Hart, in *Timpu*, Bucharest, XXII, no. 243, November 2<sup>nd</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> 1900, p. 3, it is said: „Sir Robert Hart was tasked by the Chinese government to negotiate with the foreign ministers the allowance figure required by the Powers strength and the way the payments had to be maid”, and in no. 276, December 14<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> 1900, p. 2, it is shown that Robert Hart was chief executive of Customs in China. Regarding the same character see also *Resboiul*, Bucharest, XXIV, no. 7572, July 9<sup>th</sup> 1900, p. 2 and no. 7695, December 14<sup>th</sup> 1900, p. 3.

<sup>12</sup> **Din moravurile chineze/Of Chinese Customs**, in *Adevărul*, Bucharest, XIII, no. 3897, June 3<sup>rd</sup> 1900, p. 1.

today's newspapers are full of telegrams from China and of articles referring to this country and its inhabitants it is still very interesting to see how little do we, Europeans, know about the people that defies us today with all our culture and civilization"<sup>13</sup>. Therefore one can read articles about the Chinese' customs and their way of life<sup>14</sup>, about the Chinese art and literature<sup>15</sup>, the religious situation of the moment<sup>16</sup>, the press in China<sup>17</sup>, the capital of the Chinese Empire<sup>18</sup> and, last but not least, presentations of the secrete societies in China, including the boxers'<sup>19</sup>. We also deal with articles which give information about the aspects of immediate interest, such as Chinese' military organization<sup>20</sup>, the existing

<sup>13</sup> B. Brănișteanu, **Cultura chinezească/The Chinese Culture**, in *Adevărul*, Bucharest, XIII, no. 3933, July 1<sup>st</sup> 1900, p. 1.

<sup>14</sup> **Din moravurile chineze/Of Chinese Customs**, in *loc.cit.*, p. 1; **Moravuri chinezești/Chinese Customs**, in *Constituționalul*, Bucharest, XI, no. 3222, August 9<sup>th</sup> (22<sup>nd</sup>) 1900, p. 1-2; **Viața femeilor în China/The Life of Women in China**, within the column **Cronici feminine/Feminine Chronicles**, in *Universul*, Bucharest, XVIII, no. 292, October 23<sup>th</sup> 1900, p. 1 and no. 293, October 24<sup>th</sup> 1900, p. 1; **Cum se botează în China/How They Baptize in China**, in *Gazeta Transilvaniei*, Brașov, LXIII, no. 206, September 3<sup>rd</sup> (16<sup>th</sup>) 1900, p. 7.

<sup>15</sup> B. Brănișteanu, *op.cit.*, p. 1; **Literatura chinezească contemporană/Contemporary Chinese Literature**, in *Constituționalul*, Bucharest, XI, no. 3109, March 19<sup>th</sup> (April 1<sup>st</sup>) 1900, p. 1-2; F. Emilian, **Din viața chinezilor/Of the Chinese' Life**, in *Adevărul*, Bucharest, XIII, no. 3991, September 5<sup>th</sup> 1900, p. 1.

<sup>16</sup> **Creștinismul și confucianismul/Christianity and Confucianism**, in *Conservatorul*, Bucharest, I, no. 21, January 14<sup>th</sup> 1901, p. 1-2; B. Brănișteanu, **Misionarii creștini în China/Christian Missionaries in China**, in *Adevărul*, Bucharest, XIII, no. 3919, June 25<sup>th</sup> 1900, p. 1).

<sup>17</sup> F. Emilian, **Presa chineză/The Chinese Press**, in *Adevărul*, Bucharest, XIII, no. 3998, September 12<sup>th</sup> 1900, p. 1; **Presa chineză/The Chinese Press**, in *Conservatorul*, Bucharest, I, no. 34, January 30<sup>th</sup> 1901, p. 1-2 and no. 35, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 1901, p. 1-2.

<sup>18</sup> **Pekingul – note de călătorie – (1895)/The Peking – Travel Notes – (1895)**, in *Constituționalul*, Bucharest, XI, no. 3236, August 26<sup>th</sup> (September 8<sup>th</sup>) 1900, p. 1-2 and no. 3237, August 27<sup>th</sup> (September 9<sup>th</sup>) 1900, p. 1-2.

<sup>19</sup> **Societățile secrete în China/Secret Societies in China**, in *Adevărul*, Bucharest, XIII, no. 3911, June 17<sup>th</sup> 1900, p. 1-2; *Constituționalul*, Bucharest, XI, no. 3177, June 14<sup>th</sup> (27<sup>th</sup>) 1900, p. 3 and **Din misterele boxerilor/Of Boxers' Mistery**, in no. 3232, August 22<sup>nd</sup> (September 4<sup>th</sup>), p. 1-2; Trad., **Răscoala boxerilor/Boxers' Uprising**, in *Epoca*, Bucharest, VI, no. 1329-137, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, evening edition, p. 2; **Evenimentele din China/The Events in China**, in *Gazeta Transilvaniei*, Brașov, LXIII, no. 114, May 23<sup>rd</sup> (June 5<sup>th</sup>) 1900, p. 3.

<sup>20</sup> In the article **Armata chineză/The Chinese Army** from *Adevărul*, Bucharest, XIII, no. 3902, June 8<sup>th</sup> 1900, p. 1, we can find an overview of the Chinese army and of the mentality among the soldiers. There are underlined deficiencies in the Chinese military system and the disorder ruling within this area. See also **Chinezul ca soldat/The**

situation in the imperial family in 1900<sup>21</sup> and its history<sup>22</sup>, as well as some Chinese dignitaries' and fights protagonists' opinions<sup>23</sup>. There also some funny aspects and pungencies<sup>24</sup> like recommendations and short presentations of some papers on the history of China<sup>25</sup>. There are still some easy to depict prejudices and mental automatisms posed by that time.

There can also be found ironic accents and somehow derogatory towards some exaggerations regarding a possible conflagration that overcomes the entire planet. In an article from *Adevărul* it is showed that, if it was to judge things by the telegraphic news received from London, Vienna, Petersburg and from India, not less than nine conflicts at international scale should start and take place, in which all the great powers of the moment are involved as well as other several states: „I think that for a single year so many grim wars that will reach the interests of all the great and small powers and will interest all the continents will be too many.

And when you think well it will be peaceful everywhere but in Africa

**Chinese as Soldier**, in *Resboiul*, Bucharest, XXIV, no. 7550, June 11<sup>th</sup> 1900, p. 2-3 and **Chinezii în resboi/Chinese at War**, in no. 7560, June 23<sup>rd</sup> 1900, p. 3.

<sup>21</sup> **Misterele curței chineze/The Mysteries of the Chinese Court**, in *Adevărul*, Bucharest, XIII, no. 3899, June 5<sup>th</sup> 1900, p. 1.

<sup>22</sup> See **Mormântul foștilor suverani ai Chinei/The Grave of the Ex-Sovereigns of China**, in *Universul*, Bucharest, XVIII, no. 241, September 2<sup>nd</sup> 1900, p. 1 and **Marele consiliu al imperiului chinez/The Great Council of the Chinese Empire**, in no. 277, October 8<sup>th</sup> 1900, p. 1.

<sup>23</sup> **Afacerile chineze/The Chinese Business**, in *Constituționalul*, Bucharest, XI, no. 3181, June 18<sup>th</sup> (July 1<sup>st</sup>) 1900, pp. 1-2; **Principele Tuan/Prince Tuan**, in *Adevărul*, Bucharest, XIII, no. 3939, July 15<sup>th</sup> 1900, p. 1; *Timpul*, Bucharest, XXII, no. 199, September 7<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> 1900, p. 1 and no. 200, September 8<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> 1900, p. 1; **O comunicare a unui consul chinez/A Chinese Consul's Speech**, in *Resboiul*, Bucharest, XXIV, no. 7565, July 1<sup>st</sup> 1900, p. 3; **Protectorii rasei albe/The Protectors of the White Race**, in *Universul*, Bucharest, XVIII, no. 180, July 3<sup>rd</sup> 1900, p. 1; *Democratul*, Ploiești, XXIV, no. 1649, July 23<sup>rd</sup> 1900, p. 3; **O părere despre Boxeri/An Opinion About Boxers**, in *Orientul*, Galați, II, no. 25 (314), June 11<sup>th</sup> 1900, p. 1-2; **Conferința unui ambasador Chines/The Conference of a Chinese Ambassador**, in *Ecoul Moldovei*, Iași, X, no. 6, August 17<sup>th</sup> 1900, p. 3.

<sup>24</sup> Thus in *Universul*, Bucharest, XVIII, no. 265, September 26<sup>th</sup> 1900, p. 1, within the column **Cronici feminine/Feminine chronicles**, granted by Sofia Nădejde, appeared the article called **The Russian and Chinese Artists**, which mentioned that an editor from the Russian newspaper *Petersburskija Gazeta* had the naughty idea to make a survey among the women artists in the capital of Russia to find out whether they like the Chinese.

<sup>25</sup> In *Resboiul*, Bucharest, XXIV, no. 7568, July 5<sup>th</sup> 1900, p. 3, in the column called **Bibliografie/Bibliography** they report the publication of a brochure referring to the history of China, called **Cele patru Chine/The Four Chinas**.

because this is what the interests of the French Exhibition calls for” [The Universal Exhibition in Paris in 1900 – our annotation, M.-C. G.]<sup>26</sup>.

The difficulties brought about on the international scene are pointed out very suggestively in different articles, such as the one in *Conservatorul*, on December 15<sup>th</sup> 1900: „When it comes to a game hard to understand, the French call it *casse tête chinois* [underlined in the text – our annotation, M.-C. G.]. Of course, this phrase had been invented before the Chinese issue and its combinations appeared; nevertheless it embodies perfectly the entanglements now created by the conflict between China and The European Powers”<sup>27</sup>. Not without interest is the analysis that follow, on shorter or longer terms, the political and economic consequences of the conflict in China, underlining the mutations which might occur in the hierarchy of the continental powers<sup>28</sup>.

A commendable fact for the Romanian press, regardless the political orientation of the periodicals of the time, was the relatively equidistant presentation of the development of the events without too many identifiable accents of special bias for any of the parties fighting<sup>29</sup>. Of course, the atrocities

<sup>26</sup> C.C.B., **Conflictele zilei/The Conflicts of the Day**, in *Adevărul*, Bucharest, XIII, no. 3843, April 8<sup>th</sup> 1900, p. 1.

<sup>27</sup> **Cestiunea chineză/The Chinese Issue**, in *Conservatorul*, Bucharest, I, no. 1, December 15<sup>th</sup> 1900, p. 1.

<sup>28</sup> **Situația în Extremul Orient/The Situation in the Far East**, in *Adevărul*, Bucharest, XIII, no. 3900, p. 1; **Anul 1900 (în afară)/The Year 1900 (Abroad)**, in *Conservatorul*, Bucharest, I, no. 12, December 31<sup>st</sup> 1900, p. 1. In the latter article mentioned the Anglo-Boer conflict and the one in China are emphasized, underlining Germany's ascent in the international arena, fact reflected, in the opinion of the article's author, by confiding the command of the ally troops to a German marshal.

<sup>29</sup> One of the exceptions of this aspect is represented by the newspaper *Evenimentul* in Iași – see *Evenimentul*, Iași, 2<sup>nd</sup> series, VII, no. 114, June 14<sup>th</sup> 1900, p. 1: „Europe is definitely going to conquer China. The reason would be that the inhabitants of the Chinese Empire will not allow the Arians on our territory to settle in Confucius' country: «We do not want your civilization; we have ours so many times secular. We are happy: do not upset our happiness». But not with these words can they stop the «civilized» continent' humanitarianism. It is willing to «share its lights to the placid sons of Asia». So, the canons, the enormous ships, thousands of sailors, countless pedestrians are ready to conquer the yellow land. The newspapers, which were shedding enormous tears, gazettes which had the most eloquent articles against the invasive England – today it is thunder and lightening against the soldiers in the black pavilions. The English were monsters when they were trying to kill the Boers, to rip off their gold mines; but now, the Europeans who bring death on their ironclad ships are the agents of culture and civilization. Civilization! A word that covers all the murders, all the crimes. The civilization was the one pretended to be brought by the English in Transvaal; the «foreign devils» break in China in the name of civilization. Civilization is the word that is screamed out loud in order to be able to whisper the words about sharing and

committed by the boxers against the Christians, in particular, and the foreigners, in general, were blamed<sup>30</sup> and the excesses made by the ally troops during the Chinese campaign were also presented to the public<sup>31</sup>.

Taking into consideration the presented facts it can be concluded that, by means of press, the Romanian public opinion was permanently connected to the tension of the events in China, it could learn about the reactions existing at the European and worldwide levels. But, besides all these, the turn of the nineteenth and the twentieth centuries showed, for the Romanians, the existence of a press which proved not only the capacity of collecting and disseminating information from abroad but also critical and polemical spirit in analyzing hot topics of the moment. In the context of the events of the period it could be noticed that the Romanian press was connected to the issues required by a modern press knowing the necessity of prompt and dependable news to inform its readers adequately and to eliminate uncertainties.

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commerce behind the noise created. [...] What a lesson for our «humanitarian» Europe! But this will not detain it to send thousands of people and canons to civilize the Chinese «barbarians». Is there anyone brave enough to stop this new conquest of the... European civilization?"

<sup>30</sup> **Boxerii/The Boxers**, in *Adevărul*, Bucharest, XIII, no. 3886, May 23<sup>rd</sup> 1900, p. 1; **Incendiile și masacrele din China/The Fires and the Massacres in China**, in no. 3895, June 1<sup>st</sup> 1900, pp. 1-2; *Constituționalul*, Bucharest, XI, no. 3165, May 31<sup>st</sup> (June 13<sup>th</sup>) 1900, p. 1; *Resboiul*, Bucharest, XXIV, no. 7562, June 27<sup>th</sup> 1900, p. 3; **Măcelurile din China/The Massacres in China**, in no. 7568, July 5<sup>th</sup> 1900; **Măcelul din Peking/The Massacre in Peking**, in no. 7572, July 9<sup>th</sup> 1900, p. 2-3; *Democratul*, Ploiești, XXIV, no. 1638, June 11<sup>th</sup> 1900, p. 3; Foreign, **Negocierile pentru pace. – Atrocitățile europenilor/The Peace Negotiations. – Europeans' Atrocities**, in *Epoca*, Bucharest, VI, no. 1506-315, November 16<sup>th</sup> 1900, evening edition, p. 1; **Măcelul din Peking și Europa/The Massacre in Peking and Europe**, in *Gazeta Transilvaniei*, Brașov, LXIII, no. 149, July 6<sup>th</sup> (19<sup>th</sup>) 1900, p. 1.

<sup>31</sup> **Creștinii în China/The Christians in China**, in *Conservatorul*, Bucharest, I, no. 8, December 23<sup>th</sup> 1900, p. 1 and no. 43, February 11<sup>th</sup> 1901, p. 2; *Timpul*, Bucharest, XXII, no. 253, November 15<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> 1900, p. 2; in the article **Europeeni în China/Europeans in China**, in the *Ecouri/Echos* column, in *Evenimentul*, Iași, 2<sup>nd</sup> series, VII, no. 245, December 8<sup>th</sup> 1900, p. 1, it is shown that the allies destroyed no less than 12000 old Chinese writings; **Asupra masacrărilor din China/About the Massacres in China**, in *Democratul*, Ploiești, XXIV, no. 1679, November 12<sup>th</sup> 1900, pp. 1-2 and **Asupra cruzimilor din China/About the Cruelties in China**, in no. 1688, December 17<sup>th</sup> 1900, p. 1.



## **Răscoala boxerilor din China (1900) reflectată în presa românească a vremii**

### **Rezumat**

Unul dintre evenimentele care au reținut atenția opiniei publice internaționale la sfârșitul veacului al XIX-lea și la începutul celui următor a fost răscoala boxerilor din China, al cărei punct culminant a fost înregistrat în a doua jumătate a anului 1900. Alături de alte momente tensionate ale vremii, respectivul eveniment a reliefat interesele divergente ale Marilor Puteri în Extremul Orient.

Prin intermediul relatărilor și analizelor sale, presa românească a oferit o perspectivă specifică asupra răscoalei boxerilor. Preluarea informațiilor din presa străină se îmbină în mod firesc cu analizele și interpretările proprii, rezultând o imagine mai apropiată de realitățile din China. Avem a face, astfel, cu numeroase articole în care sunt abordate nu doar aspecte de interes militar și economic, ci și chestiuni referitoare la modul de viață al chinezilor, cultura și civilizația chinezească, istoricul familiei imperiale, literatura și arta din Imperiul celest etc.