

Maier. Cornelius R. Zach s'arrête sur les options décisives des souverains roumains dans les moments de crise de la période 1866–1947, en évaluant leur rapport avec les options des élites politiques roumaines et avec l'opinion commune. Les cours royales de Bucarest, de Sinaia et de Sigmaringen, en tant que symboles de la monarchie, font l'objet de l'analyse d'Edda Binder-Iijima, tandis qu'Elena Siupiu met en évidence le prestige dont jouissait Charles I<sup>er</sup> parmi les monarques balkaniques dont témoignent, par exemple, les mémoires des diplomates de Ferdinand de Saxe-Cobourg-Gotha. Gerald Volkmer établit les bornes principales de l'évolution de la politique étrangère de la Roumanie entre 1866 et 1918, et Günter Klein étudie le rapport symbolique entre la monarchie et l'armée, en soulignant le rôle de l'armée comme instrument de légitimation dans la guerre d'indépendance, pendant la Première Guerre Mondiale et pendant la dictature de Carol II. La signification de la monarchie dans le contexte des relations roumano-allemandes est dégagée par Michael Kröner, qui étudie la relation de la monarchie avec la minorité allemande de la Roumanie, et surtout la perception du monarque par cette minorité. La figure protéique de Carol II est dessinée par Hans-Christian Maner et Klaus Heitmann, tandis qu'Armin Heinen traite du rôle de la monarchie dans la période de l'Holocauste.

La lecture de ce livre est une incursion instructive dans l'histoire moderne de la Roumanie vue à travers son centre politique et symbolique.

*Andrei Timotin*

Dinu POȘTARENCU, *Contribuții la istoria modernă a Basarabiei (II)*, Tipografia Centrală, Chișinău, 2009, 136 pp.

The breakdown of the Communist regimes is an unfinished story in a few countries that are caught on the strip between West and East. The bad luck to have a strategic geopolitical importance threw them in the turmoil of the Communist Moloch and represents still today the main reason of their uncertain future. The Republic of Moldova is such an example. Looking at these countries, one finds however that something changed though, in comparison with twenty years ago. The Soviet power has vanished and people are opening one eye to the Western societies. They may travel and work in the West, learn foreign languages and attempt to understand the values that lay behind the apparent well-being of Western countries. In the bosom of the academic milieu, at least concerning in some research institutes of Moldova, there is an obvious effort to improve their professional standards.

This volume by Dinu Poștarencu proves to be one of the honest and beautifully constructed which belong to this trend. The aspects studied by the author outline the tragic destiny of Bessarabia, that half of historical province of Moldova that today is separated by state boundary from Romania. Poștarencu highlights the statistical data of Bessarabia's administration and censuses during the century from annexation of that province in 1812 till its union with Romania in 1918.

This sequence of documents begins with an important new source, the ethnic statistics of Bessarabia in 1808, which Poștarencu found in the Chișinău National Archives. It is followed by several inquiries the Tsarist administration had carried out in the *gubernia* in 1844, 1862, 1897, and 1901.

The reader is powerfully impressed by Poștarencu's care to avoid any kind of nationalistic stereotypes. The figures are enough evidence on the Tsarist strategy to include the peripheral region of Bessarabia in the huge Russian empire. In the two chapters of the volume, *Ethnic Structure of Bessarabia in the Tsarist Time*, (pp. 7–71), and the *Territory and Administrative Organization of Bessarabia in the Tsarist Time*, (pp. 72–83), Poștarencu analyses the principles, the criteria as well as the terminology that guided the Tsarist administration in Bessarabia. The volume closes with 50 pages of appendices regarding the ethnic and administrative situation period which support the author's assertions.

The volume may be the best till now, a synthesis of ethnic and administrative statistics of Bessarabia.

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