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**La présence française dans le Sud-Est européen à l'époque moderne
(XVIII^e–XX^e siècles)**

PASCHALIS M. KITROMILIDES, *French Political Thought in Southeastern Europe. Patterns and Limits of Reception*

French political thought in its liberal and republican expressions from the Enlightenment to the twentieth century formed the broader framework within which the aspirations of cultural and political change, modernization and individual and national liberty in the societies of Southeastern Europe were articulated. Exemplary exponents of liberal and radical political reflection who wrote under the impact of the ideas of the French Revolution included primarily Adamantios Korais and Rhigas Velestinlis and the anonymous author of *Hellenic Nomarchy* (1806) among the Greeks and D. Sturdza and Ionică Tăutu among the Romanians. Quite late in his life A. Korais discovered the importance of the writings of Benjamin Constant, several of whose works are present in Korais' s library at Chios and bear the marks of his study. He was particularly interested in Constant's probably most important work, *De la religion*, which he read and annotated. Arguments from French liberalism were used in support of constitutionalism and the rule of law in the new nation states of the Balkans, while translations of Tocqueville's works contributed to the enunciation of political criticism in Greece and Romania. The apex of the appeal and impact of French liberal and constitutional ideas in Southeastern Europe came with the 1848 revolutionary movement in the principalities of Moldavia and Wallachia. In the twentieth century two towering personalities in political and intellectual life in Greece and Romania, Eleftherios Venizelos and Nicolae Iorga, acknowledged both the critical significance of the contribution of France in the attainment of the national aspirations of their

respective countries and the weight of French civilization in shaping their cultural traditions since the Middle Ages.

Keywords: Enlightenment, liberalism, republicanism, French Revolution, rule of law, French political thought.

ANDREI PIPPIDI, *Iorga et Focillon, histoire d'une amitié*

This article publishes for the first time the correspondence between Romanian historian Nicolas Iorga (1871–1940) and French cultural diplomat Henri Focillon (1876–1943). The deep relationship between these two scholars, one of whom was a leading intellectual in European culture of his time and the other the founder of French art history, is evidenced by the moving letters they exchanged over a period of some twenty years. These previously unpublished documents reflect a close collaboration that, far beyond their intellectual encounters, enhances their shared effort to resist the rise of Hitlerism. Focillon, in particular, demonstrates his solidarity with Romanians and his great concern not to lose this country to the Germans. **Keywords:** Iorga, correspondence, Focillon, France, Romania

CĂTĂLINA IOANA VĂTĂȘESCU, *Histoire de l'Albanie de l'abbé Jean-Claude Faveyrial*

Abbot in the Lazarist Order, Jean-Claude Faveyrial left a manuscript sketch of the history of the Albanians from antiquity to the last decades of the 19th century. He wrote it, most likely, in the period 1884–1889. The interest of knowing this writing, edited in 2001 by Robert Elsie, lies in the attempt to provide a chronological sequence of general Balkan events in which to find the few certain facts known about the Aromanians and Albanians. He mainly exploits the notes of Western travellers, Hammer's history of the Ottoman Empire and the book of Aravantinos. The wealth of facts gathered would require establishing the sources (which are most often missing) or verifying the existing references. As the edited text shows, it would seem that the author was further from the final version than Robert Elsie assumed. The work retains its importance as a testimony of an intellectual deeply involved in the realities of the second half of the 19th century.

Keywords: Ecclesiastical history, medieval and modern history, Albanians, Aromanians, Balkan region.

LIGIA LIVADĂ-CADESCHI, *Un choix personnel transformé en mission gouvernementale : L'activité du Dr Carol Davila (1828–1884) en Roumanie*

Carol Davila's pioneering work in the health field has often been read by contemporaries and posterity through a political point of view. One of his fundamental goals was the establishment of medical education and the education of Romanian specialists. This "nationalization" of Romanian

medicine was concretely supported by France. Opponents of French influence in the Principality accused Davila of occult interests, but in Romania his work was perceived as a gesture of patriotism. Although his presence in Bucharest does not appear to have been the result of direct negotiations between the Romanian and French governments, from the outset he was seen by his contemporaries as a true agent of the latter, an opinion he himself shared.

Keywords: Dr. Carol Davila, Romanian healthcare system, National School of Medicine and Pharmacy (School of Surgery) of Bucharest, French influence in the Romanian Principalities.

STANISLAV SRETENVIĆ, *La diplomatie culturelle de la France dans le Royaume des Serbes, Croates et Slovènes/Yougoslavie, 1918–1939*

This study deals with the French cultural diplomacy in the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenians/Yougoslavia, country created after the World War I on the basis of Franco-Serbian military alliance during the war and the French diplomatic support to victorious Serbia at the Paris peace conference in 1919/20. Cultural diplomacy is seen as a part of broader French political and economical action in Eastern Europe in order to organise the small newly created countries into the French field of interest in the anti-German perspective. The role of Italy, French ally and rival in Eastern Europe during the all period between the two World Wars is also taken into account. The French cultural diplomacy in the Kingdom of SCS/Yougoslavia had two aspects: the symbolical and the concrete aspect. Its aim was to spread the positive feelings towards France in the ex-Austro-Hungarian regions of the Kingdom, where France was unknown or seen as an enemy and to maintain the pro-French attitude of the majority of Serbs. The aim was to contribute to the “interior equitation and strengthening” of the new ethnically and religiously heterogeneous country by the means of culture used as a “soft power”. The French cultural diplomacy in the Kingdom SCS/Yougoslavia is analysed in its local, regional and European context and in its short and long term perspective.

Keywords: France, Serbia, Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenians, Yougoslavia, international relations, cultural diplomacy, soft power.

IRINA GRIGOROVA, *French Cultural Diplomacy on the Balkans in the Aftermath of the Second World War*

The study examines French cultural diplomacy, an element of the policy of maintaining influence, in Eastern Europe and the Balkans after the Second World War, with an emphasis on the 1940s and 1950s (as part of a larger study covering the entire Cold War period). The article reveals what strategies Paris used depending on the national specificities of the targeted country. Parallels and differences are pointed out with particular examples

cited. It traces how the different countries have responded to the modus operandi of French cultural diplomacy, which has been undertaken with extraordinary dynamism in the region.

Keywords: French Cultural Diplomacy, Cold War, Eastern Europe, Balkans.

Dobrudja as a Border Area in the Late Ottoman Empire, Bulgaria, and Romania: History and Memory

ALEKA STREZOVA, *Through the Eyes of Pioneers: Accounts of maritime Southern Dobrudja in the Travel Notes of Felix Kanitz, Konstantin Irechek, the Shkorpil Brothers and Todor Mumdzhiiev (Second Half of 19th Century)*

The text tells about the first explorers of maritime southern Dobrudja in modern times and their observations of the region in the period of the second half of the 19th century. Four narratives of the area are used, those of Felix Kanitz, Constantine Irechek, the Shkorpil brothers (Karel and Hermengild), Todor Mumdzhiiev.

Keywords: travel notes, maritime southern Dobrudja, Felix Kanitz, Constantine Irechek, the Shkorpil brothers (Karel and Hermengild), Todor Mumdzhiiev.

DIMITER CHRISTOV, *Metropolitan Symeon of Varna and Preslav (1840–1937) and Dobrudja*

Within the Bulgarian Exarchate the Orthodox population of Dobrudja fell into two eparchies: those of Dorostol-Cherven and of Varna-Preslav. The first head of the latter was Metropolitan Symeon (1840–1937), a prominent figure in the Bulgarian ecclesiastical and civil history. Elected for the spiritual leadership of the Varna-Preslav eparchy in 1872, he remained on that service for the extraordinary long period of 65 years until his death in 1937. The paper provides a brief sketch of Metropolitan Symeon's life, as well as an account of his relation to the history of Dobrudja. A description is given of the joint Varna-Preslav eparchy, its borders and territorial span during the years, particularly focusing on its Dobrudja part. There is also an estimation of Metropolitan Symeon's attitude toward his flock living in Dobrudja, based on documents. The presentation covers the arch-hierarch's travels around the region, the church building, the ecclesiastically related ethnic questions, the refugee problem, etc. It concludes with an assessment of Metropolitan Symeon's role in the Dobrudja's past for his long years of service.

Keywords: Dobrudja, Bulgarian Orthodox Church, Bulgarian Exarchate, Eparchy of Varna-Preslav.

ȘTEFAN PETRESCU, *From Empire to Nation State: the Greek Communities in Northern Dobrudja (1878–1880)*

This article is focused on relationship between the Orthodox Christian Churches (Greek and Bulgarian), and the secular administration in the late 1870s. After the annexation of the region by the Romanians, the Ottoman raya become Romanian citizen. The Greeks in the cities of Constanța, Tulcea, and Sulina sought to ensure the exclusive property and possession of their churches that had belonged to the Eastern Orthodox Christian community in the Ottoman Empire.

Keywords: Ottoman Empire, Romania, Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, Bulgarian Exarchate, Greek communities in Dobroudja.

CONSTANTIN ARDELEANU, *The “Inquiry” and American Research on the Balkan Borders (1918)*

This paper examines the work of the American “Inquiry” during World War I, focusing on its research and recommendations concerning the postwar borders of the Balkan states, with a special focus on the Romanian-Bulgarian boundary in the region of Dobrudja. Based on materials from the Yale Inquiry Papers – an archival collection that includes draft reports and internal documents – the study reconstructs the biographies and views of key members of the Balkan study committee (Clive Day, William S. Monroe, Albert Sonnichsen, and William S. Ferguson, among others). The paper highlights the diverse and often conflicting perspectives within the committee, shaped by personal biases and varying degrees of familiarity with the region. Through an analysis of internal reports, especially those authored by Day and Monroe, the article details the competing ethnic, economic, and strategic arguments that informed American proposals for the postwar peace settlement. An appendix includes a full transcript of one of Clive Day’s reports on Dobrudja.

Keywords: Dobrudja, Romania, Bulgaria, Balkans, American “Inquiry”, World War I.

PETAR DOBREV, *Bulgarian Landowners and the Romanian Administration in Southern Dobrudja (1918–1940)*

The final accession of Southern Dobrudja to the Romanian state after 1918 put the local Bulgarian elites in an extremely difficult and delicate position. This caused many of the Dobrudja chiflikchii – large landowners – to occupy various political positions in an attempt to preserve their influence and wealth. Some joined Romanian political parties and tried to balance their new political networks with their patriotic feelings. Others had more radical positions - some emigrated to Bulgaria and lost their property in Dobrudja, others joined the communist party and took the path of class struggle,

regardless of their origin. Loyalties were rarely clear-cut and interests often were often intertwined, as was the history of interwar South Dobrudja. **Keywords:** Dobrudja, interwar period, chifliks, large land estates, Bulgaria, Romania, elites

140 Years Diplomatic Relations Between Romania and Greece (1880–2020)

APOSTOLOS PATELAKIS, *140 Years of Diplomatic Relations Between Romania and Greece (1880–2020)*

The 140 years of Romanian-Hellenic diplomatic relations represent a long journey the two countries have undertaken together, despite facing some temporary obstacles that led to the interruption of diplomatic relations for short periods of time. Generally speaking, the relations between Romania and Greece have been positive, with both being interested in exploring new opportunities for cooperation and becoming more actively involved in international issues that concern them directly. Since the end of communism, diplomatic relations between the two countries have intensified, and today they are stronger than ever.

Keywords: Constantin Esarcu, Markos Dragoumis, Titu Maiorescu, Eleftherios Venizelos, Nicolae Ceaușescu, Konstantinos Karamanlis.

ȘTEFAN PETRESCU, *The Greek Diplomacy around Romania's Independence (1874–1885)*

This article is focused on the Greek-Romanian relationship and analyses the main diplomatic topics between 1870 and 1880, before and after Independence of Romania: 1) the consular jurisdiction, 2) the issue of the monasteries dedicated to the Holy Places, 3) the Aromanian issue in the Balkans, 4) and the legal status of the Greek communities in Dobruja. Our article provides information about the activity of two Greek diplomats in Bucharest: Kleon Rizos Rangavis (1874–1880) and Markos Dragoumis (1880–1885). We specifically used the diplomatic records of the Ministry of the Foreign Affairs in Athens.

Keywords: Greek-Romanian diplomatic relationship, consular jurisdiction, Greek communities in Romania, Kleon Rizos Rangavis, Markos Dragoumis.

LIA BRAD CHISACOF, *Romanian Writers Diplomats in Greece*

The present article is a comprehensive account on the literary Romanian diplomats accredited to Greece. Their personalities and writings of which some were inspired by the Greek sojourn are definitely telling for the history of Greek-Romanian diplomatic relations. Often forgotten or ignored these writers-diplomats who conscientiously observed the interests of their

country, were more vocal and recorded to a greater degree and in various manners the impressions left by their missions. Keywords: Romanian-Greek diplomatic relations, writer-diplomats, literature inspired by a Greek sojourn.

ANASTASIA TANAMPASI, *Aspects of Greek-Romanian Relations in the Troubled Years 1933–1948*

This study explores the evolution of Greek-Romanian diplomatic relations from 1933 to 1948, a period marked by regional instability, shifting alliances, and minority issues. Despite early cooperation through inter-Balkan initiatives and economic agreements, tensions arose over the Aromanian (Vlach) minority in Greece. The authoritarian regimes of Metaxas in Greece and Carol II in Romania deepened political and ethnic divisions. During WWII, Romania's alliance with the Axis and Greece's occupation strained ties further, with arrests and deportations of romanised Vlachs heightening diplomatic rifts. Post-war efforts to restore relations failed amid the Cold War's onset, culminating in Romania's protest against Greece's treatment of its Vlach minority. The article highlights the fragility of regional alliances under nationalist and totalitarian pressures.

Keywords: Greek-Romanian diplomatic relations, Metaxas, Carol II, Vlachs.

VLASIS VLASIDIS, *Greek-Romanian Relations during the Cold War*

The object of this publication is to focus to the Greek-Romanian bilateral relations during the Cold War, focusing not on the state, but on the individual and the societal levels. The main sources for this article are the Service of the Diplomatic and Historical Archives of the Greek Foreign Ministry and the General Archives of the Greek state in Thessaloniki. The main issues were the status of Romanian communities in Greece after the end of the WWII and the closure of the churches and schools, the compensations for the Greek properties confiscated in Romania, the Romanian fugitives in Greece, the issue of manning of the Romanian monasteries in Greece, the relations between relatives and families and the chances to study in Romania for the Greeks.

Keywords: Cold War, Greek-Romanian relations, Romanian communities in Greece, Romanian monasteries in Greece, fugitives, family relations.

Varia

JACQUES BOUCHARD, *Depuis quand existe le terme grec διαφωτισμός ?*

The neologism διαφωτισμός seems to appear in Greek in the second half of the nineteenth century as an adaptation of the terms Aufklärung, Enlightenment and Illuminismo. However, the Greek term is found as early

as the twelfth century in the writings of Eustathius of Thessalonica. His unpublished text was first published in an 1832 edition.

Keywords: neologism διαφωτισμός Aufklärung Enlightenment Eustathius of Thessalonica 12th century.

ARPINE SIMONYAN, *Study of the Armenian Manuscript Fragments № 36 and 39 of the Mashtots Matenadaran*

The second collection of Armenian fragments in Mashtots Matenadaran consists of 2258 items, which are valuable in quantity and scientific significance. This rich collection was primarily compiled from historically leaves in the Matenadaran manuscripts, separating the relics of older manuscripts. Additionally, some fragments were brought from Vaspurakan and Taron in 1915-1916, and materials were collected by scientific expeditions in various regions of Armenia in 1930-1936. Furthermore, several hundred fragments were purchased or received as gifts from diverse individuals. By manuscript fragments, we mean individual parts of old manuscripts that have not survived entirely. These fragments can be found in relatively new manuscripts as leaves and sometimes as covers or book bindings. This article focuses on the Armenian manuscript fragments № 36 and 39 of Mashtots Matenadaran. In this article, our task is to conduct a through archaeological, manuscript, and art examinations of the mentioned fragments.

Keywords: fragment, garf-leaves, manuscript, Gospel, Mashtots Matenadaran, marginal, semi-altar, century, decoration.

VIRGINIA BLÎNDA, *Naissance des quarantaines en Valachie (1830)*

In response to the unpredictable spread of plague and cholera epidemics in Europe and the Middle East, in the early 1830s a cordon sanitaire was established along the southern border of Wallachia. Quarantines and lazarettos were the main means of fighting against the sanitary danger spreading, especially from the southern regions of the Danube. The establishing the first quarantines stations along the Danube frontier was a long and demanding undertaking. It required the careful selection of appropriate locations, as well as the recruitment and on-site training of personnel. Our paper investigated the first efforts of the Wallachian authorities to establish quarantines and enforce sanitary regulations as tools to control the disease spreading through social mobility.

Keywords: quarantine establishment, health regulations, epidemic control, implementation challenges, Wallachia, 1830s.

CONSTANTIN ARDELEANU, *Dobrogea's Iron Road towards Romania: Negotiating the Sale of the British-Built Infrastructure in Romanian Dobrogea (1878–1882)*

This article examines the complex relationship between the Romanian government and a consortium of British investors regarding the fate of the Constanța – Cernavodă railway in Dobrogea, a province ceded to Romania in 1878. The railway, constructed by a British company (DBSR) in the late 1850s, encountered operational challenges under Ottoman rule and failed to generate the anticipated dividends for its shareholders. After a brief introduction in which I explain the context of its construction and operations in Ottoman times, I provide a detailed analysis of the diplomatic, legal and financial aspects of the negotiations between the agents of the British company and the delegates of the Romanian state. The Romanian government recognised the strategic importance of the railway for the country's economic development and national defence. Following extensive discussions and parliamentary debates, the Romanian state bought the British-built infrastructure in Dobrogea in 1882 for 16.8 million lei, an amount which was greater than the estimate of Romanian experts. I thus claim that the Romanian government acquiesced to the payment of the compensation originally owed by the Porte, with a view to eliminate any further legal complications that might have impeded the implementation of the government's transport masterplan that had Constanța as the country's most important outlet.

Keywords: Dobrogea, Constanța, railway, infrastructure, British capitalists, Romanian diplomacy.

Discussions

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Presentation of Academic Events and Projects Co-organized or Hosted by the Institute for South-East European Studies

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*Knowledge in Crisis: The Dynamics of Environmental Expertise amidst Rural
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Vie scientifique

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