

historischen Geist unvermeidlich zurückfallen werden. Deshalb betrachten wir es als gerechteres Lob, wenn wir zugeben, dass wir auf die viel mehr versprechende Herausgabe des II. Bandes des Werkes mit grosser Spannung warten.

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Istoria României, volume I, București, Editura Academiei R.P.R., 1960, LXXII+889 pp.+XVI plates.

This is the first volume of a projected five-volume history of Rumania being written under the direction of the Institute of History of the Rumanian Academy. It represents an ambitious effort to reinterpret Rumanian history in the light of Marxist-Leninist principles.

The present volume is a co-operative work to which many scholars, under the general editorship of Academician Constantin Daicoviciu, one of Rumania's most eminent archeologists, have contributed. It encompasses the development of human society in Rumania from the early paleolithic age, some 600,000 years ago, down to the tenth century A.D. For purposes of discussion this long period has been divided into four parts, each, in accordance with the materialist conception of history, corresponding to a distinct new stage in human economic and social development.

The first part deals with the origins and development of the primitive commune and covers a period from about 600,000 B.C., from which time date the first evidences of human habitation in Rumania, down to the first century B.C., when a powerful Dacian state begins to be formed. This period is given more extensive treatment here than in any previous general history of Rumania, the narrative being based to a large extent upon archeological discoveries of the past ten years. The first hundred pages are devoted to the Stone Age. The Bronze Age, which lasted from about 1800 to 1200 B.C., witnessed the breakdown of the primitive commune and the development of the patriarchal tribe. This process continued during the Iron Age, which began in the Rumanian lands sometime between 1150 and 800 B.C. At the beginning of this period the differentiation of the Indo-European inhabitants of the Carpathian-Danubian region into Thracians and Illyrians occurred. The culture of the Rumanian lands was primarily Thracian. Their inhabitants, called Dacians, represented the northern branch of the Thracians.

Beginning about 550 B.C., the population of present-day Dobrudja, Muntenia, and southern Moldavia came under the influence of Greek civilization transmitted via the Greek trading cities which grew up along the western shores of the Black Sea. At the same time, the Dacian civilization of the interior, centered in what is today the southwestern part of Transylvania, was rapidly developing and by

about 100 B.C. had reached a highly advanced stage. Roman influences first began to be felt in the second century B.C.

The second part deals with the economic and political evolution of the Dacian state in the first century B.C. and the first century A.D. Its orderly development was interrupted by the Roman conquest, accomplished by the Emperor Trajan in two stages—101-102 and 105-106 A.D. The conquest was motivated in part by the Romans' fear that Dacia, under its vigorous king Decebal, would unite resistance to Roman rule all along the lower Danube and in part by their desire to lay hands upon the rich mineral resources of the country.

Part three deals with the period of Roman rule in Dacia from the conquest down to the end of the third century. The archeological and written sources are more abundant for this period than for any other in the early history of the Rumanians.

It is emphasized that the autochthonous population of Dacia was not annihilated by the Romans, but survived in large numbers. This in no way hindered the progress of Romanization. So thorough had this been that by the time of the withdrawal of the Roman army and administration by the Emperor Aurelian in 271, the Romanized population which remained was able to maintain itself during the long period of the Migration of Peoples.

The economic development of the province receives special attention. The class character of this development and of Roman domination generally and the attendant misery suffered by the lower classes are treated in detail, in contrast to Rumanian historiography before 1945, which tended to concentrate on the civilizing aspects of Roman rule. The positive side of this economic development—new cities and roads and the expansion of commerce and trades—is also discussed in some detail.

The Dobrudja is treated in a special chapter. Some time before their conquest of Dacia the Romans had extended their control over the area between the lower Danube and the Black Sea. After Aurelian's withdrawal from north of the Danube, Moesia and the Dobrudja became the new defensive frontier of the Empire in the Balkans. This explains why Roman and Byzantine emperors devoted so much of their attention to this area and why economic life prospered. In particular, the old Greek trading cities of Histria, Tomis, Callatis and others experienced a renaissance. Roman-Byzantine rule in the Dobrudja lasted until the sixth century.

The fourth and final part is entitled the period of transition to feudalism. Lasting from the fourth to the tenth centuries, it is the period in Rumanian history for which archeological and written sources are the least abundant. Extensive use is made of new archeological evidence turned up in the last decade. As an example, in treating Roman-Byzantine rule south of the Danube, the authors have written for the first time a detailed history of the Dobrudja as an integral part of the Byzantine Empire between the fourth and seventh centuries.

North of the Danube the population was relatively dense and maintained its strong Daco-Roman character. The process of Romanization continued. From the fourth to the sixth century relations between the Daco-Romans and the populations south of the Danube were maintained and resulted in strong mutual influence being exerted.

From the third to the tenth centuries old Dacia was subjected to the destruction and disorganization wrought by successive waves of invaders from the east and north: Sarmatians, Goths, Huns, Gepides, and Avars. Their influence on the autochthonous population was slight.

Of much greater significance was the appearance of the Slavs in the Rumanian lands. They belonged to the southern branch of the Slavic family and their settlement in Dacia and assimilation by the Daco-Romans is treated as a slow, gradual process lasting from the end of the sixth to the tenth century. Their influence was powerfully felt in all aspects of political, cultural, and social life.

The last chapter of this part concerns itself with the time and place of the formation of the Rumanian people and language. Basing their account largely upon recent archeological discoveries, the authors demonstrate the falseness of the theory, that the entire population of Dacia abandoned the country in the third century and that Dacia was later repopulated by an immigration from south of the Danube. They believe that the evidence is overwhelmingly on the side of continuity throughout the period of the migration of peoples. They conclude that the Rumanian people and the Rumanian language are the products of the Romanization of the Dacians and of the gradual assimilation of the Slavs and other peoples who settled, for longer or shorter periods, in the territory of present-day Rumania, and that this process was completed by the end of the first millenium in the area north of the Danube.

In view of the new material upon which this synthesis is based, it must be regarded as an important contribution to Rumanian historiography. Copious bibliographies are appended to each chapter and there are numerous maps and illustrations throughout the text and valuable indices at the end.

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Barbara Jelavich, *Russia and Greece during the Regency of King Otho, 1832-1835. Russian documents on the first years of the Greek independence.* Publication No. 55 of the *Institute for Balkan Studies*. Thessaloniki 1962. 158 pp.+4 plates.

The publication of this collection of documents, the main part of which refers to the beginning of the reign of King Otho, is an important contribution to Modern Greek History. The author has