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*Minority and Majority. Cultural, Social, Religious and Ethnic Perspectives*

Cornel Sigmirean

MAJORITY AND MINORITY IN THE  
AUSTRIAN – HUNGARIAN EMPIRE

**Abstract:** *Majority and Minority in the Austrian – Hungarian Empire* According to the Law of Nationalities from 1868, during the Dualist regime, the political leaders in Budapest promoted the idea of Magyar political nation which was understood as the sum of all the nationalities living within the Hungarian state. The Romanian elites opposed the concept of “political nation”, developing an alternative project that shared the belief in the thesis of individuality of each and every nation. This idea was vastly considered and discussed by the newspaper editor Teodor V Păcățian in the pages of the Tribuna, the newspaper that was the official voice of the Romanian National Party. He, essentially, stated that each people from the country in its wholeness were a nation and only in its particularities may be regarded as a nationality. He rejected the juridical distinction between nation and nationality, as it was supported by the Hungarian politicians, claiming the right of equality between all the nations within the Hungarian state. In complete agreement with the majority of his Romanian colleagues who chose to play a role on the political stage, he envisioned that the best solution to the national matter consisted in the federalization of the empire.

**Keywords:** *Austria-Hungary, political nation, nationalities, ethno-national individuality.*

Marian Zăloagă

DE LA COMIC LA DEGRADA(N)T. OPȚIUNI DISCURSIVE ÎN  
EVALUAREA STRAIULUI ȚIGANILOR TRANSILVĂNENI ÎN SCRIERILE  
SAȘILOR DIN LUNGUL SECOL AL XIX-LEA

**Abstract:** *Amusing or degrade(-ing)-d. Discursive choices in assessing the Transylvanian Gypsies' attire in the long 19<sup>th</sup> century Transylvanian Saxons' writings. Except from the skin color, one of the most at hand indicator in signaling social and*

*cultural belonging was the attire. It has always been taken as a distinctive mark in evidencing the difference between individuals as well as between certain groups. Inability to cope with some requirements could, eventually, generate pitiful or, on the contrary, drastic moralizing discourses. In traditional societies, it even predispose to exclusion or labeling as deviant of those who could not comply with the rules. In my study, I explore the discourses promoted in German language press and ethnographical literature from Transylvania with regard of the sartorial representation of a marginal group such as the Gypsy. I intend to show that their attires' representation was described in a more or less „realist” manner or caricatured, in an attempt to actually ridicule them or/and reinforce a set of moralizing discursive attitudes from the part of knowledge producers that has been for the time being, without exception, external to the group. Descriptions made absolute abstraction of the objective criteria which made the Gypsies unable to comply with a set of quality, hygienic and decency norms set as universal standards by the European and provincial normative groups. They were more likely to portray a culture of poverty that was totally deficient in providing for themselves with these items assigned under the category of the most basic needs. This point only strengthened the location of this marginal culture in the register of moral and social anomie. Thus, it was one, among many arguments, that legitimized centuries - old hierarchies and formal exclusion.*

**Keywords:** *Attire, Transylvanian Saxons, generic Gypsy, poverty, hegemonic discourses, marginal cultures.*

Novák Zoltán Csaba

### **RELAȚIILE ROMÂNNO-MAGHIARE ȘI SCHIMBAREA DE REGIM DIN 1989**

**Abstract:** *The Romanian-Hungarian Relations and the Change of Regime from 1989. After the year 1945, the Romanian-Hungarian relations have been officially presented as normal relations, common for two friendly socialist states, without anything unusual. But, beyond the official relations between two good neighbours, in some historic situations, some issues, differences have emerged, these having been generated by historic legacies specific for the two states and the two nations. Two of the major factors that influenced the bilateral relations were the issue of minorities and the issue of the ethnic Hungarians in Romania. Once the nationalist socialism line of the Ceausescu regime has become prominent the relations between the two states became tensioned. The overthrow of Ceausescu's dictatorship eased the bilateral relations between the two neighbours. Once the regime has been overthrown, almost instantaneously the first shipments of aid from Hungary set off for Romania. The Hungarian government was the first to diplomatically recognise the leadership of the FSN (National Salvation Front) and using its international connections lobbied for the Bucharest government at the Western states. Several Hungarian delegations have arrived to Bucharest in order to resume bilateral talks. But this euphoria of the renewed Romanian-Hungarian relations has shortly been shadowed by the same old differences. The “interference” of Hungary, its presence on*

*different levels was disturbing for the Romania, the latter considering that its neighbour exaggeratedly tried to interfere with Romania's process of transition.*

**Keywords:** *Romanian-Hungarian relation, communism, diplomacy, national question, transition*

Bárdi Nándor

## UNGARIA ȘI COMUNITĂȚILE MINORITĂȚII MAGHIARE DIN AFARA GRANITELOR DUPĂ 1989

**Abstract:** *Hungary and the Communities of Ethnic Hungarians outside its Borders After 1989. In the Central European states there are over 2 million ethnic Hungarians. The governments from Budapest have always offered political shelter to them, either by direct interventions on the level of the government from these states, or by political and cultural support of the Hungarian minorities living in neighbouring countries. This policy of the Hungarian government was not always uniform, but it excelled in politicizing the gestures towards the Hungarian minorities outside its borders, the governing parties having the objective of gaining political capital. The idea of Budapest is that the ethnic Hungarians living in the neighbouring countries form a single cultural nation, the Hungarian nation. The present study tries to clarify the notions and connections of the issue of Hungarians outside Hungary's borders, an issue that has been addressed in Hungary through a symbolic phraseology, dominated by a conformist rhetoric that was generated by desire to meet political expectations. In a case like this, the political discourse subordinates everything to symbolic values, without analyzing the historic, economic and social connections of the subject itself. Self-reflection and clarification of the theoretic apparatus will make us return to the meaning and understanding of the facts based on their decisive connections. Based on what has been said above, the author wishes to present the theoretical background of Hungary and Hungarian minorities, which will allow a better interpretation and a clearer understanding of the rhetoric and decisions of the politicians. First of all we are going to outline the definitions regarding the concept of Hungarian minority communities, followed by the description of the major social changes these communities have gone through during the last two decades. Then we shall explain why in Hungary the issue of the Hungarian minorities is over debated. We shall than connect the approach of the issue with the image the Hungarian nation has on its own future, together with the most important aspirations of the Hungarian communities living outside Hungary's borders. After an analysis of the policies implemented by the Hungarian governments after 1989, we shall focus on the most important basic principles and strategic directions of the Hungarian policy. Finally, we are going to explain why in the construction of the Hungarian political community, the issue of the Hungarian minorities has been subordinated to the political interests of Hungary's political parties.*

**Keywords:** *the Hungarian minorities outside Hungary's borders, governments of Hungary, national discourse, protection policies.*

Nicoleta Sălcudeanu

## TENDINȚĂ DOMINANTĂ SAU MINORITATE DE TRANZIȚIE?

**Abstract: Dominant trend or transitional minority?** *Post-communist Romanian Literature faced several severe episodes of reducing to silence or to annexation. Uncommon is the fate of a generation that represented what was generically called the war generation. The generation of dictatorships, often called " the 1945 moment " or "lost generation", "beheaded generation" or "transition literature" (mislabeled, and we'll see why), a literature with a special configuration that has not yet received enough interest from literary history, however, has aroused the attention of several researchers. A huge injustice, even heritage crime was committed upon the " immersed generation", which was "dissolved, " purged " not only from the major trend of literature, but also from the consciousness of the generations which followed, this fact making that one of the most promising and effervescent episode, a new and an unusual chapter of the Romanian literature, from its status of Mainstream and innovative current, to be pushed to the edges of oblivion and converted to a minority of transition.*

**Keywords:** *Romanian literature, transition, minority, communism, post-communism, dictatorship, annexation, purges, oblivion.*

Miscellanea

Florea Ioncioaia

## ELITE A L'ATTENTE. ENSEIGNANTS D'ORIGINE JUIVE A L'UNIVERSITÉ DE JASSY

**Abstract: Elites in expectation. Professors of Jewish origin at the Jasy University.** *Very often, the formation of the national elites in Eastern Europe involved an exacerbation of the exclusivism on the account of ethno-confessional criteria. For a long time, the Jewish elites from Romania were banned from occupying a leading institutional position. What was the role of the universities in this respect? Did they contributed to the exclusionary process or, on the contrary, were they the channels through which the Jewish world and their elites could integrate from social and cultural point of view?*

*This topic is only at an incipient phase and the research papers concerned with putting together plain facts are almost nonexistent. Consequently, by choosing the case study of Jasy University - the oldest Romanian university and the place where during the interwar period a strong anti-Semitic movement developed - in the present study we account for the presence of the Jews among the university staff while, in parallel, try to reconstitute the*

main lines of the institutional development that served as a background for this phenomenon.

The preliminary results of this study show that in the last decade of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and up to the end of the 30's of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, a number of almost 40 university staff shared a Jewish confessional belonging. The dynamics are uneven as well as the status of these people. Among them, only one succeeded to be appointed as full professor. For a decade or even longer, the majority of the Jewish staff occupied positions at the bottom of the hierarchy or stood in, so called, “in expectation” positions. At the beginning of the 30's they will be entirely excluded from the university.

**Keywords:** Romania, Interwar period, Jasy university, Jewish staff, elites , academic positions

Corina Teodor

### DESTINE CLERICALE ÎN SPATELE UNEI NOI FRONTIERE ECLEZIASTICE. PROTOPOPIATUL GRECO-CATOLIC AL TÎRGU MUREȘULUI LA ÎNCEPUTUL SECOLULUI XX

**Abstract:** *Clerical Destinies Behind A New Ecclesiastical Frontier. The Tîrgu Mureș Greek-Catholic Protopopiate at the Beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.* The present study is intended to analyze the afterwards situation of the Tîrgu Mureș Greek-Catholic Protopopiate, once its seat has been moved from the urban atmosphere of the city to a rural background, in Bandul de Câmpie, as a result of the establishment of the Magyar Diocese of Hajdúdorog in 1912. Using for this analysis unpublished documents preserved at the National Archives Mures County Direction, the author tried to select, from a much larger problematic, only those details regarding the hierarchical relations: both of Protopope Dionisiu Decei with the Metropolitan center in Blaj, and those of the Protopope with the subordinated parishioners/priests. The difficulties related to the translation of the protopopiate seat were accompanied by others, much more serious, connected to the break of I World War. Protopope Decei, a character almost forgotten nowadays, proved to be a strong personality, who has tried to preserve an apparent normality, showing this way his real clerical vocation.

**Keywords:** the Tîrgu Mures Greek-Catholic Protopopiate; the Greek-Catholic Metropolia; I World War; Greek-Catholic Priesthood; Ecclesiastical Administration.

Adriana Bichiș

### PAUL MORAND, UN MINISTRE «D'ÉLITE»

**Abstract:** This article proposes to analyze the mission of French Diplomat Paul Morand to Bucharest (August 28, 1943 - May 17, 1944). The approach has a particular interest because we are dealing with a famous writer, a writer-diplomat who previously knew Romania, a country to which he dedicated a book in 1935, being also

*married to a Romanian princess. One could ask what reasoning lies behind this decision of the Vichy government to sent Morand to Bucharest in the summer of the 1943.*

*However, Morand's arrival in Bucharest was not well received by the members of the French diplomatic corps, neither by the foreign diplomats at post in Bucharest, nor by the Romanian high society. His pro-German political orientation was an impediment for his mission in Bucharest. It remains to be seen whether the top writer that was Paul Morand failed as diplomat in Bucharest like Minister Rene de Weck used to claim, or his mission was useful for French-Romanian diplomatic relations.*

*Keywords: minister, writer-diplomat, France, Romania, Second World War*

Viorel Ioan Vârlan

#### **ASPECTE PRIVIND RELAȚIILE DINTRE ROMÂNIA ȘI VATICAN ÎN PRIMII ANI DUPĂ AL DOILEA RĂZBOI MONDIAL**

***Abstract: Aspects regarding the relations between Romania and Vatican in the first years after the World War 2. The article uses some diplomatic documents from the Archive of Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This article shows the tensions between Romania and Vatican after the communist regime came to power in Bucharest. The communist regime treated with hostility the Apostolic Nunciature, Catholic Church as well as all the religious cults in Romania.***

***Keywords: Romania, Vatican, Catholic Church, diplomacy***

Anca Șincan

#### **RELAȚIA DINTRE STAT ȘI BISERICĂ. ÎN APĂRAREA EXCEPȚIONALITĂȚII CAZULUI ROMÂNESC**

***Abstract: The relationship between Church and State. In defense of the exceptionality of the Romanian case. The present article looks into the prolongations between the interwar and the communist period with regards to the discussion on defining the state church relationship. The survivals from the interwar period into the communist regime, be them in specialists, ideas, modernization projects, have impacted the way in which Romanian communism dealt with religion. The characteristics of the new regime have also put their mark on the design of the relationship – lack of trained specialists, lack of a clear understanding of communist ideology. The relationship was designed on a Soviet model, while the model was still in testing period and the consequences showed in the cases where the model was applied. Thus this paper suggests that instead of thinking this state church relationship came with the new regime one has to look at it as a surviving***

*relationship that went back to mid-19<sup>th</sup> century for some particularities and mostly to the interwar period with regards to the specialists, points of contingencies between state and church, rules and regulations.*

**Keywords:** *Romanian Orthodox Church, Ministry for Religious Denominations, communism, state church relations.*

Florina Codreanu

### **THE WORLDLY CONQUEST OF DEATH: NEAR DEATH EXPERIENCES (NDEs)**

**Abstract:** *This paper keeps track of some pre-modern and modern emblematic near death experiences (acts of faith) towards the contemporary attitude regarding the phenomenon of partial death (acts of brain). The mystic of resurrection based on religious belief is subdued in the contemporary world by a medical condition based on drugs, stress or accidents leading to a brain attack. The study points up the course of expression and rationale taken by the worldly conquest of death using the spiritual body as the main weapon in the detriment of the actual physical body at stake. Moreover, the NDE epitomizes the condition in which a selected life experience explains an unexplainable death experience.*

**Keywords:** *otherworld journey, afterlife vision, testimonial narrative, out-of-body experience, half-death, cinema.*