

NICOLAE IORGA ON THE DEVELOPMENT STAGES OF ROMANIAN NATIONALISM

Mihai D. DRECIN*

DOI <https://doi.org/10.56082/annalsarscihist.2021.1.82>

Abstract. Known for his research on the elements of national unity which rose and developed in the minds of all Romanians and which eventually led to the establishment of Greater Romania, the great historian Nicolae Iorga identifies the stages through which the national sentiment of Romanians on both sides of the Carpathians had evolved from the Middle Ages to the modern era.

After having researched the published works of Romanian humanists and Enlightenment writers in the archives and libraries of Romania, Bucovina and Transylvania, Nicolae Iorga identified the following stages of Romanian nationalist manifestations: primitive nationalism (9th to 10th century), enduring nationalism - the foundation of modern nationalism (17th century), definitive nationalism (18th century), and modern nationalism (the 1848/1849 generation).

While Transylvanian nationalism was *petitionary* in nature, the nationalism that manifested south and east of the Carpathians was labelled as *political*, as it was accompanied by concrete own achievements.

"Romanian nationalism" is seen as cultural and democratic, based on the traditional hospitality of the Romanian peasants and the sentiment of unity.

These are the features of the Romanian national sentiment defined by Nicolae Iorga in 1922, which were used as a foundation for the Nationalist Democratic Party, the party he established in 1910 and whose leader he was until 1938.

Keywords: Nicolae Iorga, national idea, culture, democracy, unity

At the end of the 19th century, Nicolae Iorga researched the archives of Blaj and Oradea as documentation for the publication of *Histoire des Roumains de Transylvanie et de Hongrie (History of Romanians in Transylvania and Hungary)*¹ and *Istoria literaturii române în secolul al XVIII-lea (1688-1821) (History of Romanian Literature in the 18th century) (1688-1821)*, volumes I and II, dedicated to the Transylvanian School and its predecessors². On this occasion, Iorga would also read the Romanian books and articles published in Transylvania and kept in the libraries of Braşov, Sibiu, Cluj, Oradea, Sighet, and Aiud and

* Corresponding Member of the Academy of the Romanian Scientists.

¹ Nicolae Iorga, two volumes published between 1915 and 1916.

² Nicolae Iorga, vol. I, Ed. Institutului de Arte Grafice and Minerva Publishing House, Bucharest, 1901, vol. II, Librăria Pavel Sima Publishing House, Bucharest, 1928. Last edition published in Editura Didactică și Pedagogică, Bucharest, 1969, curated by Barbu Theodorescu, vol. 1, 1688-1821, 455 pp., vol. II, 1688-1780, 544 pp.