

**ON THE SITUATION OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMY  
DURING THE ANTONESCU REGIME  
(SEPTEMBER 1940 - AUGUST 1944)**

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**Abstract.** The present paper provides a brief presentation of the evolution of Romania's national economy in the period September 1940 - August 1944, as indicated by the published bibliography and unpublished archive documents of the time.

It addresses the national economy and the policy of "Romanianization", aimed at transferring the industrial and commercial enterprises and assets owned by Jews, Greeks, Armenians and Italians or Romanian citizens belonging to the aforementioned ethnic groups, to state ownership. Command of these economic enterprises was given by the state to the so-called "commissioners of Romanianization". They had to organize the economy in order to meet the needs of the anti-Soviet front. In reality, the Romanian state wanted to protect the local capital, regardless of the ethnicity of the owner/owners, from the offensive of the German capital which sought to regain its privileged and dominant positions from 1914-1916.

The economy of the Antonescu regime, rid of the legionary Romanianization commissioners, who sought only to enrich themselves in connivance with the Jewish owners, pursued a strict planning of the war economy, in order to obtain maximum quantities of products and good quality for the supply of the "Eastern Front" and of the cities, and to counter the economic sabotage set up by the Communist Party of Romania, which was illegal and totally subordinated to the interests of the USSR.

**Keywords:** Ion Antonescu regime, national economy, 1940-1944, planning, resistance to the Nazi takeover policy.

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The summer of 1940 is remembered as a terrible time in Romanian history. In a matter of only three months, the Country was torn apart. The Greater Romania, made whole in 1918-1919, after centuries of suffering and efforts aimed at achieving the union, now lost one third of its territory and population<sup>1</sup>. The USSR occupied Bessarabia and northern Bukovina, Hungary – north-eastern Transylvania, Bulgaria – the Southern Dobrudja (the Quadrilateral). The new geography of Central and Eastern Europe was the result of the Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact, which divided Europe among Hitler's Germany and Stalin's Russia – a dramatic situation for Poland, Denmark, Norway, the Netherlands, Belgium,

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<sup>1</sup> Namely, 101.157 km<sup>2</sup> (34.28% of its territory) and 6,827,586 dwellers (32% of its population). Cf. Vasile I. Ciubăncan, *România 1940. Pierderile economice și de populație. Basarabia-Bucovina de Sus-Cadrilater – 28 iunie 1940 [Romania 1940. Economic and Population Losses. Bessarabia – Upper Bukovina – The Quadrilateral – 28 June 1940]*, Ciubăncan, Cluj-Napoca, 2005, p. 5.