

## UNION OF THE ROMANIAN PRINCIPALITIES AND THE COLLECTIVE GUARANTEE OF THE EUROPEAN POWERS\*

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**Abstract:** This study reveals a very specific issue in the field of the international relations history. As a matter of fact, the Romanian State's emergency presupposed an international regime exposed through the joint guarantee of the European Great Powers, as signing parts of the Peace Treaty of Paris, from the 30<sup>s</sup> March 1856. The readings of that Treaty and of the many other papers proved the fact that the Guaranteeing Powers were the six European Great Powers, as France, Great Britain, Austria, Prussia, Russia, and Sardaigne. The Ottoman Empire, as suzeraine Court on the Romanian Principalities Moldavia and Wallachia, as well on Serbia, it was a guaranteed, and not a guaranteeing part. These revealings permitted some pointed understandings of the both international impact of the Romanian international acts, as, for example, the Union of the Principalities in 1859, and significations of the diplomatic European deliberations, as the Great Powers Concert on the Romanian Question.

**Keywords:** Romanian Principalities Moldavia and Wallachia, Guaranteeing Powers were the six European Great Powers, as France, Great Britain, Austria, Prussia, Russia, and Sardaigne.

The guarantee clauses reinforce the practical/enforceable dimension of international acts (treaties, agreements), which is a compulsory requirement. They are clauses *in spe*, i.e. with explicit reference to their subject matter, whether simple or multiple. In the Treaty of Paris of 30 March 1856 such clauses were distinctly concerned with the Ottoman Empire, the Romanian Principalities and Serbia. *Collective guarantees* were assumed by the European powers in regard to each of the three 'cases' by means of *special clauses*. As a result, any analysis of one or other of the three guarantees, from a historiographical perspective, could appear to be purely rhetorical, with a pre-existing answer, expressed *strictly in terms of the clauses* of the treaty of 30 March 1856 and its subsequent acts. However, all these acts, and especially the first one (the Treaty of 30 March), did not give the impression of being very clear, as they contained contradictory formulations, which seem to convince us once again that political-diplomatic deliberations were usually conducted under the auspices of compromise.

Among the formulations (expressions) which allow a first instance evaluation of the role the Ottoman power had regarding the politico-diplomatic situation of 1856, those contained in Articles VII, XXII, XXV and XXVIII of the Treaty of 1856

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\* See Gheorghe Cliveti, *România și Puterile Garante, 1856-1878*, second edition, revised and largely appended, Iași, Editura Junimea, 2020, p. 25-123.