

TRANSYLVANIAN ECHOES OF THE UNION OF THE ROMANIAN PRINCIPALITIES

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Abstract. *Based on documents and published literature, we will show how the Union of the Romanian Principalities in 1859 and the figure of the ruler Alexandru Ioan Cuza had echoes in Bihor and Maramureş, two Romanian areas in Western Transylvania which were subjected to a ruthless process of Hungarianization before 1918. It should be noted that the political event of 1859 and, above all, the figure of Alexandru Ioan Cuza, had lasting influences well after 1866, both in the lives of ordinary Romanians and in those of the cultural, religious and political elites. The examples provided by us will support the view that has been already established in our country's ancient and modern historiography, according to which the pre-modern and modern times served as a consistent and sound foundation for the creation of Greater Romania in 1918, from a social, economic, cultural, political and moral perspective.*

Keywords: Small Union, 1859, Alexandru Ioan Cuza, Transylvanian echoes, 1859-1918.

The Carpathian-Danubian-Pontic geographic space and the Romanian people who were born within its boundaries had the misfortune of being in the path of the great migrations at the dawn of the Middle Ages, only to get entangled in the interests of some of the surrounding kingdoms and empires throughout the Middle Ages and the modern era. These facts of life were actual disruptive factors in the process of state organisation, particularly when it comes to the formation of the backbone of the Romanian national sentiment: a unitary state lying on both sides of the Carpathian Mountains.

History researchers, geographers, demographic researchers, philologists, and sociologists have all demonstrated the geographical, linguistic, and religious unity of the Romanian people, as well as the permanent economic, cultural, and political links between the three Romanian Principalities. These gradually formed the foundation of the kindred spirit that was specific to the Middle Ages and then, of the modern national spirit.

The permanent exchange of people, goods, books, ideas, news, and sentiments meant that events in the three Romanian Principalities have often interfered with one another and have become known on both sides of the Carpathians¹. All the more

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