

**ALEXANDRU VAIDA VOEVOD: FROM SPA MEDICINE
TO FIRST PRIME MINISTER OF GREATER ROMANIA –
150 YEARS SINCE HIS BIRTH**

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Abstract. Alexandru Vaida Voevod, a physician and politician who served three times as prime minister of Romania (1919–20, 1932, 1933), was a leading spokesman for the union of Transylvania with the Old Romanian Kingdom (Moldavia and Wallachia). In 1896 he was a member of the Committee of the Romanian National Party, representing the pro-Habsburg group. Between 1906 and 1918 he was a deputy in the Budapest Parliament. After 1918, he became a member of the Governing Council and Prime minister on December 9, 1919. During the Interwar period, he held the position of Prime minister as well as Minister of internal and foreign affair in several governments and President of the Council of Ministers. He died in Sibiu on March 19, 1950

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Alexandru Vaida Voevod or Vaida Voievod (February 27, 1872 - March 19, 1950) served as the 28th Prime Minister of Romania, becoming first Prime Minister of Greater Romania, succeeding General Arthur Văitoianu (1864-1956). He was born to a wealthy Greek-Catholic family in the Transylvanian village of Bobâlna (Olpret, or Alparét, Austria-Hungary).

Vaida Voevod went with his brother to study in Vienna, where he enrolled at the Faculty of Medicine. After finishing his studies, in 1901, he married Elena E. Safrano, who bore him four children. With a doctor's degree in medicine, he moved to Carlsbad (Karlsbad), Karlovy Vary, where he worked for a brief period as a balneologist. Carlsbad was a favorite destination for many Romanians at that time. Karlovy Vary is located about 106 kilometers (66 miles) west of Prague. It lies at the confluence of the Ohre (which flows across the city) with the Tepla and Rolava rivers. The origin and development of Karlovy Vary has always been inseparably linked with the beneficial effects of its local thermal mineral springs. More than 80 mineral springs arise here. The 15 so-called large ones, whose temperatures vary between 34 and 73 degrees Celsius, are used for spa purposes. Vary as a small spa settlement was founded most likely around 1349. According to legend, Charles IV organized an expedition into the forests surrounding modern-day Karlovy Vary during a stay in Loket. It is said that his party once discovered a hot spring by accident, and thanks to the water from the spring, Charles IV healed his injured leg. An important political event took place in the city in 1819, with the issuing of the

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