

ROMANIA'S RELATIONS WITH TÜRKIYE UNDER THE PRESSURE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT (AUGUST 1939 - NOVEMBER 1940): FROM ALLIANCE TO MUTUAL SUSPICIONS

Lecturer George UNGUREANU, PhD¹

Abstract. *The main moments that mark the evolution of the Romanian-Turkish relations in this period are linked in particular to USSR's conduct in the region and to the way, similar in some respects, but predominantly different, in which the two states reacted to Soviet expansionism. Thus, until mid-1940, Türkiye continued to be a loyal ally for Romania, a fact that was also demonstrated in the context of the "Bessarabian crisis" on 27 June 1940. After that point, bilateral relations went downhill for exogenous reasons. However, some elements of rapprochement persisted, such as shared fears of USSR, or certain bilateral trade interests.*

Keywords: alliances, conflict, diplomacy, (military) hypothesis, (spheres of) influence.

DOI [10.56082/annalsarscihist.2024.1-2.52](https://doi.org/10.56082/annalsarscihist.2024.1-2.52)

PRELIMINARIES

The economic and political agreements concluded by Germany and USSR on 21 August, and August 23/24 1939, respectively, paved the way for the Second World War, opening a sequence of dramatic developments in the geographical area between the Baltic and the Black Sea, which was the subject of the so-called secret additional protocol to the Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact, which concerned the delimitation of spheres of influence between the two totalitarian great powers. Reading, however superficially, the three articles of the document itself (the fourth article dealt with the secret nature of the arrangements)², shows a glaring contrast between the third article and the two preceding articles. Thus, while in the case of Finland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, and the territories of inter-war Poland, respectively, the two spheres

¹ National University of Science and Technology Politehnica Bucharest, Pitești University Centre, The Faculty of Theology, Letters, History and Arts.

² *Istoria politicii externe românești în date* [History of Romanian foreign policy in data], Ion Calafeteanu, editor in chief, Bucharest, Encyclopedic Publishing House, 2003 (hereinafter, *I.P.E.R.D.*), pp. 316-317; Vasile Sturza (editor), *Basarabia și destinul său secret. Mărturii și documente istorice* [Bessarabia and its secret destiny. Historical testimonies and documents], Bucharest, Litera Publishing House, 2016, pp. 224-225.