

## 1940 - ROMANIA AND RUSSIA

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**Abstract.** *More than 70 years have passed since the drama of the dismemberment of Greater Romania, and this subject - despite a vast and growing historical bibliography, both Romanian and foreign - is still highly controversial. We must state from the beginning that we do not share the opinion that history must be rewritten. We believe instead that history must be read again, namely studied anew, especially where a thorough, systematic study had not been done initially.*

**Keywords:** Carol II, Germany, Soviet Union, Bessarabia, Hungary, Bulgaria.

At the same time, we suggest a wider documentation, in particular the identification of new sources. With this in mind, we analyzed sources relating to some of the “main players” who witnessed the drama of June, 1940 in Bucharest:

- King Carol II's *Journal*.
- Prime Minister Gheorghe Tătărescu, with his “Memoir” of 1 May 1943.
- Foreign Minister I. Gigurtu (1-27 June 1940), with his “Memoir” of 10 October 1944.

All of the above mentioned sources have been partially published in the volume *România cu și fără Antonescu* (Iași, 1991), as well as the recently published “Diary” of Petre Andrei.

It is difficult to find in the annals of the Romanian past, a more distressing, serious, unpredictable, and dangerous period than that in the summer and fall of

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<sup>1</sup>See Gh. Buzatu, Gh. I. Florescu, *Al doilea război mondial și România. O bibliografie*, Iași, Editura Academiei, 1981; George Ciorănescu, *Bessarabia: Disputed Land between East and West*, München, Ion Dumitru Verlag, 1985; second edition, Bucharest, Editura Fundației Culturale Române, 1993; Ion Ardeleanu and Mircea Mușat, *România după Marea Unire*, vol. II/2, 1933 – 1940, București, Editura Științifică și Enciclopedică, 1988; V. Fl. Dobrinescu, *Bătălia pentru Basarabia (1918-1940)*, Iași, Editura Junimea, 1991; Mircea Mușat, *1940 – Drama României Mari*, București, Editura Fundației “România Mare”, 1992; Ioan Scurtu, C. Hlihor, *Anul 1940. Drama românilor dintre Prut și Nistru*, București, Editura Academiei de Înalte Studii Militare, 1992; Ilie Ceaușescu, ed., *România în anii celui de-al doilea război mondial*, vol. I, București, Editura Militară, 1989; the most recent book, based upon a very rich bibliography, was edited by Gh. Buzatu, Marusia Cîrstea, Horia Dumitrescu, Cristina Păiușan, eds., *Iluzii, teamă, trădare în terrorism internațional =1940. Omajiu Profesorului Ioan Scurtu*, I-II, Iași, Casa Editorială Demiurg, 2010.

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