

THE INDEPENDENCE OF ALBANIA. IN THE LIGHT OF VINTAGE ROMANIAN TESTIMONIALS (1912-1914)

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Abstract. The modern history of ancient Illyrians' survivors is undoubtedly focused on the founding of the Albanian State, ideal that has guided many generations of Albanians, for which many patriots sacrificed themselves and which was symbolically materialized, on November 28, 1912, when a group of Albanians proclaimed the birth of a new European state¹.

But the institutional structure of Albania required a long and tortuous gestation, taking into account the specific internal conditions of the society and especially the external conditionality imposed by the divergent interests of the Great Powers in the geographic area in which the Albanians were living from obsolete and no less wicked historical times.

The birth of modern Albania took a broad international echo, properly revealed in the European historiography, the public opinion of the time taking note, through the media, of the existence of an ancient and oppressed nation in the Balkan area of European Turkey, of the justice of its ideals and of its national-territorial aspirations. However, more than in other European countries – in Romania, the Albanian leaders' efforts and the insurgent fight of their compatriots, Christian or Muslim, had not only a special echo, but they represented, at that time, priorities of national policy: „Yes, it is true that we love Albania – *revealed in 1914, the chief of the Romanian State* – like it is for instance, the love between godfather and godson”.

Keywords: independence, Albania, European state, justice, ideal, war

The present work aims to bring together relevant testimonials, hosted in the press during the first three years of the new state founding – which can represent a contribution to the knowledge, from a documentary-testimonial Romanian perspective, of Albanians' history and of Albania, especially because in the works of Romanian specialists, dedicated to Albania's history, including the regional political context – otherwise valuable and pertinent, with great documentary coverage, especially regarding the archive – the press document is sparingly used.

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¹ See the classical synthesis of Professor Castellan, appeared in a well known Parisian university collection, where the Modern Times are about 10 pages – Georges Castellan, *L'Albanie*, Presses Universitaires de France (coll. *Que sais-je?* 1800), Paris, 1980 /128 pp./, pp. 8-12, 20-26. After over two decades, the issue is taken up and amplified, the Modern Times is treated in Chapters: V. *La Rilindja. „Renaissance” Nationale (1850-1910)* (pp. 41-49) and VI. *1912. Une Indépendance limitée* (pp. 51-61) – Idem, *Histoire de l'Albanie et des Albanais*, Éditions Armeline, Crozon, 2002 /208 pp./; see also – Kopi Kyçyku, *Istoria Albaniei*. Prefață: Stelian Brezeanu, Editura Corint (coll. *Microsineteze*. 42), București, 2002 /198 pp./ (chap. IV. *Epoca modernă și visul național*, pp. 51-71).