

THE TRAGEDY OF THE ROMANIANS IN 1812, A PREMEDITATED ACT

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Abstract. The present study deals with the tragedy undergone by the Romanians in 1812, which was by no means a random occurrence. On the contrary, it can be considered the result of a long expansionist policy of Tsarist Russia. The severance from Moldavia of the territory between the Dniester and the Prut rivers was also due to the tolerant attitude of the Ottoman and Habsburg Empires combined with the compromises made by other great powers such as France, England and Prussia.

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The tragedy lived by the Romanians in 1812 was not a random occurrence, was not due to the complex events of those times and cannot be considered the immediate consequence of the Russo-Turkish War started in 1806. It was rather the result of the long-standing policy carried out by the empires surrounding the Romanian Principalities: Habsburg, Tsarist and Ottoman. Unfortunately, the act of territorial rapine of 1812, neither the first nor the last in the Romanians' history, was made possible by the contribution of other great powers such as France and England, which were trying to reach their political objectives by making compromises and agreements in favour of Austria and Russia, thus sacrificing the territorial integrity of the Danubian Principalities.

What is much more tragic – in our opinion – is that the ordeal the Romanians went through occurred despite the existence of several agreements and treaties, signed and sealed by the very great powers, which acknowledged the existence, territorial extent and autonomy of Moldavia, Wallachia connected with Transylvania by kinship relationships.

In order to prove such realities and avoid going back too far in history, we deem it sufficient to return only a century ago and start with the times of Peter I and the Treaty signed by the Tsar and Dimitrie Cantemir, Prince of Moldavia, on April 13th, 1711. The first one, which cannot rule out Peter I's goal, became a political testament for his descendents to make Russia control the mouths of the Danube, turn the Black Sea into a "Russian lake" and penetrate further towards

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