

THE SOVIET-JAPANESE TREATY AND THE ISSUE OF BESSARABIA

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Abstract. The unification of Bessarabia to Romania has not been recognized by the signatory powers of the Paris Peace Treaty of 1920. The main cause has been the opposition of the Japanese Empire to ratify this act. The Soviet Union maneuvered its diplomatic actions in such a way to buy the Nipon Empire goodwill. The Japanese Empire has not signed the treaty. Moreover, it delayed its signature until 1939, when the Ribbentrop-Molotov Treaty unleashed Iosif Visarionovici Djugashvili Stalin's hands, creating him once again the opportunity to occupy Bessarabia. At the same time USSR abusively annexed the Northern Bukovina and Hertza Country which in the past belonged to the former Habsburg Empire.

Keywords: Bessarabia, Romania, unification, international, treaty, ratification

Following a long period of neutrality, on the 14th/27th of August 1916, Romania declared war, and on the same night entered into fight against the Austro-Hungarian Empire¹. Immediately after that, on the 17th/30th of August 1916, declaring solidarity with Vienna, the German Empire opened the front against Romania². Two days later, on the 19th of August/1st of September 1916, the Kingdom of Bulgaria and the Sublime Porte communicated to Bucharest that they both started the war against the country³.

Romania left behind neutrality and entered into the First World War in consequence of a secret agreement with the Entente, concluded on the 4th/17th of August 1916⁴. Through this the Entente promised to support Romania at the end of the War to unite with Transylvania⁵, inhabited by a Romanian majority⁶, with

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¹ Cf. Constantin Kirițescu, *Istoria războiului pentru reîntregirea României, 1916-1919 (The History of the War for the Completion of Unity of Romania, 1916-1919)*, vol. I, 3rd edition, Bucharest, 1989, p. 203 et al.

² Idem, p. 219 and following.

³ *Ibidem*.

⁴ Idem, p. 200 and following.

⁵ *Ibidem*.

⁶ In an official census of 1910 it is specified that out of the total 5,263,602 inhabitants of Transylvania 2,830,040 were Romanian, i.e. 53.8%. On the other hand, there were 1,664,296 Hungarians, i.e. 31.6%. The rest of the population of Transylvania were Saxons, Schwabs, Jews, Gypsies, Czechs, Slovaks, Serbians, etc. Under those circumstances the propaganda and oppression from Budapest were stronger (cf. Mircea Mușat, Ion Ardeleanu, *De la statul geto-dac*