



SOME VIEWPOINTS ON THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE SAINT MARTYR PRINCE CONSTANTIN VODĂ BRÂNCOVEANU AND TSAR PETER I THE GREAT

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Abstract. Constantin Brâncoveanu (1688-1714), Prince of Wallachia, and Peter I the Great (1682-1725), Tsar of the entire Russia, are remembered as two European personalities of remarkable importance. Their relationship was indirect, as they never had actually met. Nevertheless, in their foreign politic both were united by a common aspiration towards to blow the Sublime Porte. By his actions the Romanian voivode aspired to maintain the independence of his state. In its turn, the tsar was looking to conquer the Istanbul and to get into control over three continents.

Constantin Brâncoveanu continued the political path of Șerban Cantacuzino, his uncle and the former voivode of Valachia (1678-1688). In the same time he benefited from the modern organization of the princely chancellery that ensured him links throughout Europe. Also, the prince Brâncoveanu used the Orthodox Church. He organized a secret meeting in 1707 in Bucharest. Valachian and Orthodox Church leaders attended that meeting. Its purpose was to set up a military campaign against the Ottomans with the help of the Russian tsar. In case of victory the latter was to become a theoretical leader of the Balkan Peninsula. The plan was not completed. The tsar regarded the Cantacuzene family members as his main allies in Valachia. In 1706 the tsar Peter I wrote in a commanding tone to the prince Constantin Brâncoveanu asking him to appoint Mihai Cantacuzino as the head of the army. Then, in June of 1711, he offered help and asylum to the voivode nephew Toma Cantacuzino, which had betrayed the Ottomans. Subsequently prince Brâncoveanu had not helped the tsar in the Stănilești battle (June 1711). Russia was defeated by the Ottomans. Peter I angrily called Brâncoveanu "Judas". The relationship between the two of them were broken.

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