

**WHY UNITED KINGDOM REFUSED THE ECONOMIC  
HELP FOR ROMANIA IN 1938.  
NEW DOCUMENTS FROM BRITISH  
NATIONAL ARCHIVES**

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**Abstract.** The topic of British-Romanian economic relations after Munich Agreement was under historians scrutiny for more than half a century and there are still new surfaced documents that allow for a better understanding of UK's Government motivations towards Romania. The present paper presents some new documents on the meetings of King Charles II had in London during his visit (14-17 November 1938) and an unknown project for a close Anglo-Romanian economic cooperation proposed by Mitiță Constantinescu, along with the British motivation for rejecting this project.

**Keywords:** United Kingdom, Romania, King Charles II, Mitiță Constantinescu, British-Romanian economic cooperation

**Rezumat.** Chestiunea relațiilor economice româno-britanice de după Acordul de la Munchen s-a aflat în atenția istoricilor vreme de mai mult de jumătate de secol și totuși încă apar noi documente care permit o mai bună înțelegere a motivelor care au stat în spatele acțiunilor Guvernului britanic față de România. Articolul de față prezintă câteva documente noi referitoare la întâlnirile pe care regele Carol al II-lea le-a avut în timpul vizitei sale la Londra din 14-17 noiembrie 1938, dar și o propunere necunoscută până acum din partea ministrului Mitiță Constantinescu pentru o colaborare economică strânsă româno-britanică, alături de motivarea britanică pentru respingerea acestui proiect.

The Munich Agreement from 29<sup>th</sup> September 1938 threw Romania's diplomacy in a spiral of negotiations aimed at obtaining guarantees for the preservation of the existing borders. Romanian diplomats were convinced that Munich Agreement covered not only the Czechoslovak issues, but also contained a „gentleman's agreement” by which Nazi Germany was given a „free hand” in South-Eastern Europe. There have been serious signals in this direction, as the statement of Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1938 that Germany would have a dominant role in Central and South-Eastern Europe, while England had no intentions for an economic encirclement of Germany in this region<sup>1</sup>.

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1 Gheorghe Buzatu, *O istorie a petrolului românesc*, Casa Editorială Demiurg, Iași, 2009, p. 322