

ALEXANDRU IOAN CUZA'S REFORMS CONCERNING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE SYSTEM

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Abstract: *In this article we aimed to highlight the immense contribution of ruler Alexandru Ioan Cuza to the modernization of the national defense system of the young Romanian state resulting from the Union of January 1859. The ruler unified the Armies of Moldova and Wallachia and then undertook a set of measures that led to the quantitative and qualitative increase of the Army and the other components of the defense system. Numerous normative acts of European inspiration were adopted, exchanges of experience were made in the line of training, equipment and the foundations of a modern military education were laid. In 1866, Romania had a modern, well trained and equipped Army.*

Keywords: *Alexandru Ioan Cuza, ruler, Romania, national defense system, national interest, Army, training, endowment, legal regulations, military education.*

Alexandru Ioan Cuza, born on March 20, 1820 in the town of Bârlad (the only town in Romania where two heads of state were born), and died on May 15, 1873, in Heidelberg, Germany, he was the first ruler of the United Principalities and of the national state of Romania. By his election as lord of Moldavia, on January 5, 1859, and of Wallachia, on January 24, 1859, the Union of the two principalities was accomplished. He was ruler of Moldavia until 1862 and ruler of Wallachia until 1862, ruler of the United Principalities of Moldavia and Wallachia after 1862 and of Romania until February 23, 1866. He is buried at the Holy Three Hierarchs Monastery in Iasi.

Cuza's reign represented an extensive process of modernization of the state by transposing the principles and aspirations of the revolution of 1848, completing the process of transition to a modern political regime. Each political and/or military approach was well analyzed, the goal being only one, the promotion of national interests and the expansion of the country's autonomy.

Looking at the place and role of the Army within the Romanian State, there was an exchange of ideas, clashes of opinions, regarding its structure and physiognomy. Noting that "all the guarantee of our national independence, the preservation and respect of our law and territory are from

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