

## ROMANIAN-BRITISH ECONOMIC AND MILITARY POLICIES IN THE INTERWAR PERIOD

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**Abstract.** The article entitled *Romanian-British economic and military policies in the interwar period* emphasises important areas of diplomatic, economic and military cooperation between Romania and Great Britain in the 1920-1939 period. Throughout this period, Romanian diplomacy tenaciously pursued international cooperation and equality among states, fighting revisionism and eliminating war from the international life. In order to fulfil these designs, Romania cooperated with democratic countries (Great Britain, France, and others). Thus, the main issues of Romania's relationship with Great Britain – in the 1920-1939 period – concerned: *the settling of Romania's war debt to England; the issue of war reparations; the economic and financial rapports; the mining subsoil regime (especially that of oil) in Romania; trade treaties and customs tariffs between the two countries.* In the 1934-1939 period, relations between the two countries were directed at furthering their economic cooperation by: *improving Payment Agreements; increasing commercial exchanges in a significant manner;* as well as more extensive *military cooperation* (by shipping military technique to Romania and building a commercial and military naval port on the Black Sea).

**Keywords:** Romania, the Black Sea, Taşaul port, Tăbăcăriei Lake, Payment Agreement, the mining subsoil regime, Financial issues, Cernavodă Canal

During the interwar period, Romanian diplomacy focused on three directions: strengthening ties with the Great Powers allied during World War I, maintaining good rapports with neighbours and cultivating relations with all countries, both enemy and neutral.<sup>1</sup> At the same time, the main objective of Romania's foreign policy throughout the interwar period was to preserve the borders drawn at the end of the First World War.<sup>2</sup> Speaking about these objectives, I.G. Duca – minister of Foreign Affairs (19<sup>th</sup> January 1922 – 27<sup>th</sup> March 1926) – emphasised that it was imperative to strengthen ties with the Great Powers and “maintain cordial relations with neighbours to whom we are bound by common interests.”<sup>3</sup> In their foreign policy, Romanian diplomats upheld both

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<sup>1</sup> *Istoria Românilor*, vol. VIII, *România Întregită (1918-1940)*, coordinator Ioan Scurtu, Editura Enciclopedică, Bucureşti, 2003, pp. 445-447.

<sup>2</sup> David Britton Funderburk, *Politica Marii Britanii față de România 1938-1940. Studiu asupra strategiei economice și politice*, Editura Științifică și Enciclopedică, Bucureşti, 1983, pp. 29-32.

<sup>3</sup> *Reprezentanțele diplomatice ale României*, vol. II, 1911-1939, Editura Politică, Bucureşti, 1971, p. 10.