# UNKNOWN INFORMATION ABOUT TARGOVISTE REFLECTED IN THE BUCHAREST PRESS DURING THE GERMAN OCCUPATION 1916 – 1918

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***Abstract***

*The article analyses the significations of the concept of the quotidian life on Romania in German occupation 1916-1918.Remarkable representative of the Romanian politics both during the World War I and between wars , Ion I.C. Brătianu was a constant supporter of the liberal ideas and also its leader.*

***Key Words**: everyday life, Ausweis, Targoviste, ordinance*

The pretext of opening the First World War was the assassination of the Austro-Hungarian heir to the throne, Franz Ferdinand and his wife Princess Sofia, in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina. The real reason was the desire of division of the colonial empires and the formation of national states in Europe. In Bucharest, the Romanian Prime Minister Ionel I. C. Bratianu (2) was cautious in taking the decision to enter Romania in the war, because he knew the discussions in Paris and London among the political circles. We can give as example the drawing, in 1916 in London of the future border line between Romania and Hungary, called in diplomatic language the "Balfour line", after the man who had drew it, Lord Arthur James Balfour (3).

King Carol I (1881 - 1914) (4) and the Head of the Conservative Party, Petre P. Carp, asked that the treaty concluded between Romania and the Central Powers be respected on 18/30 October 1883 (5) and that we enter the war as their allies (6), but Ionel Bratianu and the members of his government imposed themselves and the Crown Council of July 21, 1914 in Sinaia decided to adopt the armed expectation for the war preparation and national unity accomplishment.



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The great powers initiated an intensive diplomatic action to attract Romania from the camp side where each (7) one was a part of. Ionel Bratianu was not fooled by the promises of the foreign diplomats, he knew what had happened to his father I. C. Bratianu during the War of Independence, but was not influenced by any of the applications left and pressures of the Romanian politicians, anti-Russian or filo Germans (8). The Romanian Premier waited for the favorable moment when Romania entered the war. When on 4 / August 17, 1916 (9) he concluded a secret agreement with Triple Agreement for joining the war as allies of this political-military (10) group.

During the neutrality period among people from Bucharest, there used to travel a joke which expressed the mood of those turbulent years. It was said that Nicholas Filipescu stated that it was not the time for Romania to join the war; Alexandra Marghiloman stated that the time had arrived for a long time, and Ionel Bratianu said that it is better not look at the clock (11). On 14/27 August 1916, Romania declared war on Austria-Hungary, and on 15/28 August 1916, the Romanian army started military operations for the liberation of Transylvania (12). On 17/30 August Germany declared war on Romania and on 19august /1 September, 1916 the Sublime Gate and Bulgaria have followed the German example. The Romanian army fought on two fronts, on August 24 / September 6, 1916 the defeat of the Romanian army took place. Bratianu realized that the country was in a corner and his mood and morale (13) dropped. On November 20 / December 3, 1916, the Romanian army lost the Battle of the Arges-Neajlov (14), or the battle for Bucharest, the Romanian government would move led by the Prime Minister, the Parliament and the Royal House to Moldova.

Among other administrative measures taken by the occupation authorities, in order to maintain order in the city, stood the numbering of houses and carriages in Targoviste. The numbers where entered on metal plates, on a blue background with white writing, to be as visible as possible. The same thing happened with the



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streets; each street had a name plate at a visible place and on the same blue background with white writing. The costs of numbering houses and street were borne from the funds on the town hall and were procured from the police (15). This was not a new thing for the people in Targoviste, as the house numbers and street names existed before the war.

As anywhere else in the country, to maintain control over the persons age work, but also for an efficient exploitation of the occupied territory, the German authorities asked for all the unoccupied civilian work forces and they were used for management of the war, including Gypsies and prisoners of war (16). „According to the order of the military administration (voucher order for the Romanian population nr.224) any person capable of working between 14 - 60 years in the territory of military administration, is obliged to perform work that he would give a paid service to the allies. ”

They will go as workers to work with the force only if, after a prior request there are no present voluntary workers or there are not enough workers. To facilitate the employment of volunteers, especially those who will be employed on a longer time than their place of residence, they are granted special advantages such as: higher salary or a deposit of about 50 lei, grant married and family aid workers say the wife 10 lei and 5 lei for each child under 14 years, also favoring the holidays.

Workers who volunteered were granted certain awards [...]. Those who fail to comply with the order, that is to appear at work, will be punished by German military courts or military commanders [...].

Being interested in production of meat and live animals, military governor issued an "order against torturing animals" on June 11, 1917, which established the rules for using animals "to harness", which should not exceed weights larger than their power and according to their nutrition. If they were somehow injured whilst



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using the breast collar, they should not be used and their wounds should be cared for. If they were injured on the back, the injured area had to be free in case of use.

Cutting cattle were transported in fair conditions, with a cart, to have enough room to lie down, pigs' feet are not to be tied, and transport is to be made at night during warm season, to be held in the shade, to give them water whenever needed. The birds must not be carried upside down, but kept in transparent crates. By orders, animal slaughter in civilians was covered. The fattening cattle were killed, also the barren, pigs over 60 kg, but only with permission from Administration - Agriculture Department (17). Those who gave the Administration a pig over 90 kg were allowed to cut at home as well. In case of force majeure, the animals were cut and the meat was taken to the slaughterhouse, there was no need for ticket permission. Meat should not be taken outside the community. Many were caught trying to take meat to Bucharest to sell it, also eggs, butter, lard and bared the rigors of the law imposed by the occupation regime and their products were confiscated.

Before the war, one of the problems was dogs and horses, as they could cause accidents. For example, in 1906 were published three ordinances on dogs and horsemen, some people had been bitten by dogs, so it was decided that their owners walk around town with dogs muzzles. Dogs found free were shot and their owners were prosecuted.

In the occupation years, a regulation was imposed for municipal levy on dogs under military administration order published July 24, 1917.People who had dogs paid a village fee and announced their purchase. It was not allowed to have more than three dogs in a household, and the tax was 10 lei for the first dog, 20 lei for the second dog, and 30 lei for the third (18) one. During the day dogs had to be tied and left free only at night on the perimeters of the house of the owner.

Each dog had to wear a special collar for dogs, issued by the City Hall for a fee of two lei. Those who do not took into account the rules were punished by a



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fine of 1500 lei or six weeks (19) imprisonment. After the war, the flaying house service of was established.

Among other duties that belonged to the City Hall, was to take care of abandoned children, as there was, even before the war, a system like foster parents today. Abandoned children were entrusted to a nanny paid by the Community. Previously, the police would hold an investigation on how the child was found and finding the mother was the next target. Usually children were abandoned by unmarried mothers.

Alienated, people with psychiatric problems were not left free on the streets, but were transported to the madhouse or specialized hospitals, caretakers and patient transportation was supported by the community and faced quite a few cases at that time.

Maintaining order in the city was still one of the tasks of the City Hall and reports from the police where received by the City Hall, about what was happening in the city every day or night so having knowledge of all events or incidents between people or between them and the German troops. The City Hall had to solve the shortcomings of German soldiers, whatever the nature. For example it answered the complaint of a German officer established on the Egalitatii Street through an investigation, who could not sleep because of a dog in a refugees abandoned yard.

Since the occupation authorities, the movement of the people was monitored, checking the records of hotels in Targoviste, taking note of people who passed through the town, the occupants being traders, engineers, and teachers, doctors, and farmers rarely, loyal clients of these hotels were prostitutes from the city, which were many. To travel to the occupied territory, citizens needed a document issued by the occupation authorities, Ausweis (20), based on tables prepared by the city halls, received in exchange for payment.



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***References***


1. The article is part of the Opportunities project offered during the doctoral training courses to increase capacity and motivation for scientific research performance POSDRU/6/1.5/S/23.
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3. See Radu Ştefan Vergatti, *O dispută fără obiect: Transilvania*, in *Geopolitica*,a political geography, geopolitics and geostrategy magasine, year III, no. 11/2005, p. 125-136.
4. Between 1866-1879 he had the title of Prince, and between 1879-1881 the Royal Highness, Romania was elevated to the rank of kingdom by the Parlement on 14/26 March 1881.
5. A treaty of alliance with Austria-Hungary in which, in the same day Germany joined as well. The treaty had a defensive and secret character, being known only by a small circle of politicians and by King Charles I.
6. ***, *România în anii Primului Război Mondial*, vol I, Bucharest, 1987, p. 78-79.
7. Two political and military groups were confronting , the Triple Alliance (Central Powers) and the Triple Understanding (Antanta).
8. Radu Stefan Vergatti, *Starea de spirit a lui Ionel I. C. Brătianu după intrarea României în Primul Război Mondial*, in the Scientific Bulletin, University of Pitesti Historical Studies, no. III-IV (2004 - 2005), Pitesti, p. 113-114.
9. *** *Istoria Românilor*, vol II, Tom II, Bucharest, 2003, p. 418-419, at this time in his home Vintilă Bratianu 5 copies were signed in original for: Russia, France, Britain, Italy and Romania, the appointment of the alliance documents with Antanta, not even the government members knew about it.
10. *România în anii* ..., vol. I, *ed. cit*.p. 121-122.
11. Radu Ştefan Vergatti, *op.cit*., p.114.
12. *Istoria Românilor*, vol. II, tom. II, *ed.cit*., p.420-421.
13. See Radu Ştefan Vergatti, *op.cit*., p. 115-116.
14. ***, *Istoria Românilor*,, vol. II, tom. II, *ed.cit*., p. 433; *România în anii* ..., vol. I, *ed. cit*.p.486- 526.
15. Bucharest Gazette, XXXVIII,no.102,119, 13.04.1917.
16. Ibidem.
17. Bucharest Gazette, XXXVIII,no.179,11 June 1917.
18. *Lumina*, I, no. 24, 25, september 1917.
19. Ibidem.
20. *Lumina*, I, no. 23, 24, september 1917.




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