

# ROMANIAN LIBERAL IDEOLOGY DURING THE XIX-th CENTURY

## Abstract

Romanian liberalism is the most important political trend of the Romanian Principalities. Its beginnings must be sought in the eighteenth century, when European Powers increased interest from Romanian state under Ottoman suzerainty. On this occasion, the highest elite Romanian boyars gave a strong revival movement. The introduction of the Phanariot rule after 1711 in Moldova and in 1714 the Romanian Country, was a serious violation of the autonomy of the Principalities as they were granted in the Capitulations concluded with the Ottoman Empire.

Phanariot rule have been considered by the Romanian historians as a period of regression in all areas, from domestic political climate degradation by secular and ecclesiastical dignities seizure by relatives of the rulers, the cancellation of a defense based initiatives, by abolishing the national army, the Turkish currency domination Romanian economic market or representative actions abroad.

However, historical research and some tests have shown modernization, when the thrones of the two Romanian states were occupied by persons of stature as Constantin Mavrocordat or Nicolae Grigore III Ghica.

The second half of the eighteenth century was a period of confrontation at the European level between the Habsburg Empire (Austria), Prussia, Russian Empire (Tsarist Russia), the Ottoman Empire (Ottoman Empire), who translated the essential changes map of Europe.

Habsburg Empire and the Ottoman Empire have played the right to impose its authority over principalities after 1690. Thus, the Habsburgs occupied

Transylvania in 1699, the Peace of Karlowitz in 1718, Banat and Oltenia, the Peace of Passarowitz giving Oltenia in 1739, the Peace of Belgrade.

Between 1768 and 1812, the Romanian principalities were six war theater of war in Tsarist Russia and the Habsburg Empire wanted to remove the Ottoman Empire in European politics.

During this period, the essential purpose assumed by the Romanian boyars, was to support the legitimate rights of the principalities, the assumption Capitulations. This attitude is the birth certificate of Romanian liberalism, a political trend which we can say that it constituted *avant la lettre*. The Romanian historian V.A. Urechia notes that on 8 April 1768, Czarina Catherine II (1767-1796) had its seal on a print order in Moscow of the Romanian requests.

This historical assertion is supported by the attempt in 1768, to overthrow the ruler, who was seized at the Inn Serban Voda, action continued at the express request of Russian support and arming of volunteers. Leonid Boicu considers that the Romanian boyars felt absolutely necessary "to strengthen our independence and influence in a buffer state."

A milestone in the political development of the Romanian principalities were complicated negotiations that led to the peace of Kuchuk Kainardji 1774 annulling the Ottoman Empire's economic monopoly over the Romanian principalities, paving the way for Russia's power quality and protective of the Romanian Country Moldova.

According V.A. Urechia, in 1770, Bishop Innocent of Husi, Benedict, abbot of Moldovița, Vartolomei Măzăreanu, abbot of Solca Ion Paladi, vel biv chancellor, Enakaki Milu, went back to St. Petersburg to discuss the Czarina Catherine II fate principalities.

Preliminary peace Kuchuk Kainardji held in Focsani, in July and August of 1771 were marked by the presence of an important delegation of Romanian

noblemen of both principalities, which included, among others, Bishop Gregory of Wallachia, Cozma Bishop of Buzau, Chezarie Archimandrite (later Bishop of Râmnic), Nicholas Dudescu, Mihai Cantacuzino, N.Filipescu, I. Câmpineanu Pantazi, Gregory Băleanu, Dumitrache Sturdza, Stephen Topliceanu, Ionita Balaceanu.

Mihai Maxim pointed out that on 6 August 1772, the secretary of the Czarina, Orlov signaled the existence at Czarina Catherine`s court of a Comitee formed by Romanian boyars memories. Cantacuzino genealogy records that the Romanian delegation requested, by letter, addressed to Orlov, "agreements with which their ancestors were once closed the port and were ignored and no country dares to ask for his old rights. "

Vlad Georgescu discusses the poet's Ienăchiță Văcărescu role in developing capitulations. According to him, Văcărescu, though pro-Turkish (Turkish part of the commission was present at the negotiations), so different from the originators of the theory capitulations has contributed to the reconstruction, from Cantemir notes and giving as the year of its conclusion by Mircea the Elder, the year 1393. In July 1772, he sent a letter to the Grand Vizier, the increase cited as "worship Mircea, Prince of Laiota Basarab Matei Basarab to recruit and 1633".

On 30 August 1772, Orlov asked the delegation to submit a written request object. It can be summarized thus contributing money from the Mihai Cantacuzino: 1 - Land subject to Turkish Romanian (as Mircea) 2nd submission or worship (as Laiota) 3 - to strengthen the privileges of the Country; 4 - corruption of the privileges of the Romanian Countries and the union. " Mihai Cantacuzino considered when concluding capitulations by Mircea the Elder was 1418. C. Giurescu found a community of ideas between the Moldovan and Wallachian boyars. The latter believed that Moldova has also received the same privileges

during the Romanian Country and Laiota Mircea Basarab, Bogdan Vasile Lupu's time.

The Gallery of the potential authors of the Capitulations must be supplemented with names like Bishop Gregory, bishop and lord of Râmnic Chesarie Filipescu. The latter assertion belongs to Radu Popescu who claimed that the acts signed by the rulers of Romanian Principalities, are in possession of Filipescu family: "Mircea Voda did after the victory, seeing insolence Ottomans, was reconciled with them and they have been giving that to bribe country rest in peace. Our approach was structured according to the main coordinates of the modern history of Romania, the Romanian principalities and later:

1822 – Project of constitution of Moldova (at the time, pejorative allusion to the secret revolutionary society of Italian carbonari reason and the Moldovan draft constitution was immediately "billed as a revolutionary"). It was written during the reign of Ionita Sandu Sturdza, Moldova (1822-1828) by his political supporters (including Ionica Tautu) - Moldovan representatives of small aristocracy, who "wanted to break with the past absolutism." They were built in defiance of a liberal political group, thus counterbalance the vast conservative landlords, which is why they drafted a constitutional and republican state "Aristo-democraticesc". The project of constitution (the bill clearly liberal intellectual product) may be considered "the first manifestation of thought liberal politics."

1830/1831 - Organic Regulations of the Romanian and Moldavian Land founded the modern constitutional governance based on the separation of powers. They gave the first modern political organization, the two Romanian states, according to liberal political thought and practice of the time, meaning that the state political power was not concentrated solely and absolutely to the Lord, being divided and limited by legislative power between the fundamental Statutory Laws - Public Assembly.

Statutory period (1830/1831-1848) is an obvious age modernizes Romanian principalities (in the sense of Westernization) in terms of constitutional law, political-institutional, administrative, urban, architectural, behavioral fashion.

In the broadest sense, the statutory period is a time of transition from geopolitical affiliation of the two Romanian states in the eastern Ottoman civilization space, the membership of the geopolitical space Western European civilization, is clearly an era marked by the effort of the Romanian Country and Moldova's integration into the European geopolitical and Western civilization.

1848 - prepared by all the political, educational, economic, social and cultural achievements of capitalist production of material goods, new political ideas repudiated the privileges of any kind and conquered hearts and minds of a growing number of people from all walks Moldavian-Wallachian society, the direct contact that the heads of the liberal revolution of 1848 it had with the civilized West. Encouraged by the success of the revolution triumphed in France Paris, which started on 24 February 1848, Romanian liberal revolution is a manifestation of the old system robust against internal political institutional regulations.

The political program of the revolution of 1848, resulted in the "Proclamation of Islaz" (written by Balcescu and shaped by Ion Heliade Radulescu), contained 22 articles clearly animated by a liberal and generous humanistic level. It proposed a status of Wallachia in constitutional terms, as an autonomous state with the republican character - independent of the administrative and legislative. It was an attempt to include the political, universal suffrage, equality before the law and all tax absolute freedom of the press, separation of powers, and freedom of meetings. It was necessary a land reform for the peasants. From a legal perspective, were introduced the responsibility of ministers and the death penalty. From the point of view foreign policy imperative require any foreign

power interference in internal affairs of the Romanian Country. An important aspect of liberalism is the revolution in the Romanian Country tolerance for diverse ideas.

1848 (June 11 to September 13) - the first revolutionary provisional government on June 9, formed in Izlaz, was composed of Ion Heliade Radulescu, Christian Tell, Stefan Golescu Radu Şapca priest, known as "Popa Şapcă" and Captain Plesoianu.

In Bucharest and in various rural and urban communities were organized numerous public meetings that were broadcast political principles of the programmatic liberal revolution and began to make their appearance as political clubs. After the rebellion the liberalism refuge in political circles and clubs secret (because it was fought mainly decided by the Wallachian in public) and thus becomes a particular attribute of the heads of the revolution of 1848, of the hundreds of exiled political figures to In the summer of 1857, in some Western capitals, especially Paris.

Although the government shaped by the flame of the revolution of 1848 not reached a cohesive organizational structure, however, inspired by the generosity and egalitarian liberal ideas, in addition to acting vigorously beside the Western governments and public opinion, Romanian liberals succeeded to spread the cause of the Romanian national state and to keep awake the conscience of their countrymen from the principalities.

1849-1865 periods is considered as doctrinaire liberalism as an ideology of freedom and political equality, as well as a design consistent with the aspirations of the peasant emancipation and appropriation (which constitute the overwhelming majority of the population) acquires greater consistency. Liberalism is openly promoted by people of all social enterprises, but especially the former leaders of

the revolution, thanks not only to propagate and principled individual, but acting jointly as distinct political groups.

Liberal reforms carried out by the governments of moderate Mihail Kogalniceanu (1863-1865) and Nicholas Krețulescu (1862-1863, 1865-1866), the second part of the reign of Alexandru Ioan Cuza (1862-1866), after completing the unification of the two government parties provincial (in Iasi and Bucharest) on 22 January 1862, in a single Council of Ministers in Bucharest, to exercise unified national executive authority over the entire territory of the Moldovan-Wallach: enactment of the dependent rural peasants and land reform (August 1864), the secularization of monasteries, enactment of legislation on pensions for civil servants, the establishment of the French model of the Court of Auditors (the control of public money) in 1864 adopted the Law on the administration (through the communal law was enacted there urban and rural communes, villages and hamlets will be grouped in common areas, more common form of net, and several nets a county) on 2 December 1864 reorganization of justice (which were founded following courts: courts of the net, county courts, courts of jurors and the Court of Cassation); promulgation of the Criminal Code (composed by the French model) and the adoption on 4 December 1865 Civil Code (prepared by the Napoleonic model and Italian), creation of the State Council (chaired by the prince and develop projects law or rule on those developed by the Government, which was a new opportunity for confrontation between ruler and the Assembly), the establishment of the National Guard and extend the electoral law, adopted on 5 December 1864, the law of public instruction, which gain education organizational unit throughout the country, establishment of the University of Bucharest (1864).

1866-1877 was a decisive moment in the action that was the rallying liberal campaign for parliamentary elections in April 1875. Determined to act on the same political platform against the Conservative government as early as 4 January 1875,

various liberal factions will form a central committee election, in order to coordinate political activity throughout the country. On 23 January 1875, it was started the publication of a periodical called significant liberal "Free voter." On 24 May 1875, leaders of various liberal parties, which are added dissident conservative MC Epureanu, have agreed to act with unity to ensure the full triumph of liberal principles in Romanian political life. Ion C. Bratianu, Mihail Kogalniceanu, Ion Ghica, Al. Golescu parliamentary alliance was sealed by a meeting held in Enei Street house, owned by English Major Lakeman, and settled in Romania known as Mazar-Paş a coalition, which was laying the groundwork National Liberal Party.

1878-1900 – it was the period of the government of the liberals. Over a period of 12 years (between 1876 and 1888), Liberal Party chairman, Ion C. Bratianu, served four consecutive terms as prime minister, a period known in history under the name of "big government liberal" and was stated that some of the most important institutional settlements, and legal civilization of the Romanian state. Ion C. Bratianu created the liberal concept „governing by ourselves" to promote a national policy designed to help develop the country's economic forces. Applying the concept "by ourselves" in the economic and industrial, can be seen sustained effort to develop local credit institutions, by establishing the National Bank and not by giving them concessions foreign capitalists, as they had done previously with the railroads.

Immediately after the cessation of life of the founding president I. C. Bratianu, the Liberal Party, begins to give way to a moderate orientation, whose beginnings he had made even I. C. Bratianu during the last years of his government. Under its influence, especially after 1884, when it was adopted a weighted position, National Liberal Party became a political body excluding the "propaganda and revolution," despite the fact that C.A. Rosetti not retired from



politics, creating a government institution focused on the establishment and consolidation of the Romanian independent state.

It is necessary to see that almost all the actors of the Unification from 1859 and to the Independence died in the period 1879-1891, offering the leading structure to a new generation of liberals. The main representative of the "new stream" was Ion I.C. Brătianu, the elder son of Ion C. Brătianu. Elected in the Deputies Chamber in Gorj County, he became in the last years of the XIX-th century the central character of the National Liberal Party, being in position of Minister. When D.A. Sturdza retired after a stroke of a mental disease, Ionel Brătianu took in 1908 the power in the party, being for two decades the "number one" of the Romanian politics.