

## THE PEACE OF BUCHAREST OF 1913: POLITICAL EFFECTS AND DEMOGRAPHIC REALITIES IN SOUTHERN DOBROGEA

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**Abstract:** We have tried to show so far all the reasons which determined the Aromanians to answer the summons of the Romanian authorities and settle in Southern Dobrogea. There existed, moreover, logistic imperatives<sup>1</sup> which did not allow the Aromanians to live in the Balkans any longer. Population density in the two counties of Southern Dobrogea, namely Durostor and Caliacra, was the lowest in Romania at the time.<sup>2</sup> Besides, the authorities were aware that the Aromanian groups, forming as they did a community of Romanian culture, could be urged to settle in the Cadrilater and thus acculturate the local Turk, Tatar and Bulgarian populations.

**Keywords:** acculturation, demographics, political community, nationalism, colonization

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**Rezumat:** colonizarea aromânilor în Cadrilater acțiune care răspundea chemării autorităților române de a emigra în Sudul Dobrogei. Au existat, de asemenea, imperative de ordin politic, care nu mai permiteau aromânilor să trăiască în Balcani în cadrul statelor naționale. Densitatea populației celor două județe din sudul Dobrogei și anume Durostor și Caliacra, a fost cel mai mic în România motiv pentru care aromânii au fost instalați acolo. În plus, autoritățile române erau conștiente de faptul că grupurile aromâne au format o comunitate de cultură romanească, stabilită în Cadrilater, care a declanșat un proces de aculturație a grupurilor locale de turci, tătari și bulgari.

**Cuvinte cheie:** aculturație, comunitate politică, colonizare, naționalism, demografie.

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<sup>1</sup> These imperatives concerned: a) the return of the Greeks from Asia Minor to the Balkans, then inhabited predominantly by Aromanians; b) border reconfiguration of the states newly emerged after 1919–1920; and c) the incidents Aromanians had with the Bulgarians and Greeks in the regions both parties disputed.

<sup>2</sup> A historian who has studied Southern Dobrogea notes a few figures that can give us an ethnic picture of this region in the interwar period. According to the 1930 census, the counties of Caliacra and Durostor had respectively 166,911 and 211,431 inhabitants. The Romanians in the Cadrilater were 22.6% in Durostor and 19% in Caliacra of the entire population; the Muslim population continued, therefore, to be the majority in Southern Dobrogea in 1930.