

Economic History**Aspects of Romania's Economic Effort in the Second World War****Ștefan Gheorghe¹**

Abstract: Romania's participation in the Second World War was caused by loss of an area of approximately 1/3 of the national territory and has 6 million inhabitants, for the three neighbors of the Romanian state, that the Soviet Union, Hungary and Bulgaria will be the reason fundamental of Romania's participation in military operations on both fronts, east and west of the Second World War. Although Romania's war economic effort, amounted to the enormous amount of 1,200,000,000 dollars in 1938 currency, a situation an honorable fourth place in the hierarchy of the United Nations that led the fight against Germany, co-belligerent status, the country justly deserved our will be refused for political reasons known only to the Great Powers. Of all the states, are in a situation somewhat similar to that of Romania, no one made an effort not so much military or economic in defeating Germany.

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Romanian historiography, or prior to 1989, on military-political situation of Romania in the Second World War and immediate postwar years, it boasts a large number of studies and papers able to elucidate some of the most controversial debates, material and human damage that quantifying the Romanian economy in the second world war. Compared with the existing situation in the communist period when the particulars of the highest censure intentions researcher to a research the topics and express their opinions publicly, today we are faced with an avalanche of studies, articles and information capable to talk about numbers, data, official statistics or not, able to highlight the disparate aspects of the same problems.

The difficulty of such analysis on Romanian economic performance in the second world war is so obvious and our intention is to contribute to a lesser extent to the overall effort to identify the economic losses suffered by the Romanian state during the conflict and that no to consider territorial Rapture

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in summer 1940 that decisively undermined Romania's economic and military capacity. Of course, during the communist regime will be subject, as far as possible avoided, mentioned in extremis and without being given due weight, is in complete disagreement with the touch of brotherly camaraderie and friendship that had presented repeatedly and ostensibly the official organs of the party . Bringing the discussion of these issues would have been liable to interfere with relations between the two communist countries, such that the subject will be "forgotten" the Romanian historiography, which will resume only in moments of tension external relations, thus demonstrating ambitions of independence of the Romanian communist leaders in Bucharest to their masters in the Kremlin.

Romania's participation in the Second World War was driven by political considerations and strategic needs generated by international political developments of the mid twentieth century. Loss of an area of approximately 1/3 of the national territory and has 6 million inhabitants, for the three neighbors of the Romanian state, that the Soviet Union, Hungary and Bulgaria will be the central one of Romania's participation in military operations on both fronts, the east and west of the Second World War. Study of the Romanian-Soviet relations, starting with the end of the second world war, confirms that assigns the role of barometer of these relationships in terms of the amount taken from the Soviet economic obligations into account both economic provisions of the armistice of September 12, 1944 and those made after signing the peace treaty in Paris in 1947 between Romania and the United Nations.

Evidence in this case, the importance of Romania held economics obligations towards the Soviet Union and other allies, the general relations taken by the Romanian authorities with the Soviet Union, are of particular importance for any action made in order to capture and understand the correct nature too Romanian-Soviet interference frequent throughout the last half century.

Another aspect of the lack of popularity of the matter, among many topics discussed by Romanian researchers during the communist regime will be, undoubtedly, the permanent concern of the Romanian authorities before 1989 to not tackle the issue of economic contribution and Romania's military to shorten the second world war, that in itself represents a proof of friendship to the "great friend of the east" whose economic and military effort had not questioned any way. Territorial losses in the summer of 1940

seriously affected the Romanian state's defense, resulting in the reduction of military resources (due to decrease by about 1/3 of number people), for which, in early 1941, "military service was contained 1.57% of the population, number of active Army being only 211,768 people (16,389 officers, 29,299 NCOs, 166,000 band). "Thanks to measures taken by the Romanian authorities, to June 22 of the Romanian Army combat forces are will improve considerably when Romania entered the war of the total amounted to about 628,168 troops, of which 432,624 troops will be operating. In the losses suffered by the Romanian army in the battle for Bessarabia and Bukovina statistics speak on average about 24 396 soldiers, including a large number made up of the dead.

Restoring border east and north-east of Greater Romania, represented one of the stated objectives of the Romanian authorities, but the release of two Romanian provinces would not mean-as hoped and an important part of the heads of political parties-end military operations of the army Romanian in the second world war. Amid talks with the German and analyzing the strategic and military respectively Bucharest will shortly submit to the German command had decided to continue the war and across the river, while the Romanian economy was not fully prepared for such an offensive the enormous costs involved in military logistics, military equipment, and human resources related course. Moreover, to compensate for shortages of labor, the production will be militarized effort is focused on meeting the needs of front or German side, respectively.

Despite all the shortcomings of the military campaign against the Soviet Union, between June 22, 1941 and August 23, 1944, the Romanian army had an important contribution in support of war on the southern flank of the German-Soviet front, Romania being on second place after Germany in terms of scale military and economic war effort. The entire duration of military operations against the Soviet army, some data centralized by the General Staff, the Romanian army lost military campaign in the East 624 740 71 585 soldiers of the dead, 243,622 wounded and 309,333 missing. These significant losses of military personnel plus numerous material losses recorded by the Romanian army, throughout DURING Soviet war, but especially during the broad military offensive on the Soviet front in Moldova.

On August 23, 1944 Romanian military campaign ends in anti-Soviet war, not without heavy losses in the number of missing in battle, not to mention

the material losses suffered in the bombing, occupation of territory or military equipment. Romania was Germany's most important ally on the Eastern front, possessing in 1942 a number of 26 Romanian divisions, compared to only eight Italian, 12 Hungarian and a fluctuating number of Finnish military units. Following these rather impressive military forces from the 46 allied military units held by the Germans on the Eastern Front, more than half were made up by the Romanian, is a natural consequence and suffered considerable number of human losses, proportional to the number of sent to the front.

A memo Statistical Service of the Romanian Army in October 1945, on the situation of human losses during the campaign in East evaluate Disappeared number about 309,533 troops, noting that this figure had fallen included both prisoners and the dead battlefield M.St.M. Romanian, having a clear situation of the deceased and Romanian prisoners, separated by category. No less important will be wearing the economic costs of war with Germany, August 23, 1944 when he found the Romanian economy controlled by German capital, German claims due to the Romanian state is calculated to be worth about 1.5 billion DM. Mobilization of a large military contingent will weaken the capacity of Romanian industrial production, had to maintain the same levels of production effort. Moreover, the transition economy on a war footing and it will channel financial resources and economic importance, normally were for other purposes, and maintenance costs requiring special Romanian troops on the front. Allied bombing, carried out primarily on the economic centers of primary importance, and they will cause considerable loss of the Romanian economy, particularly the oil industry is concerned, while registering a large number of casualties.

The deficits caused indirect Romanian economy will mention, in particular, non-equivalent exchange of currencies of two countries, artificially increasing the German mark compared with the Romanian leu, causing an undue increase in the price of products imported from Germany in comparison with the Romanian goods exported, and an increased purchasing power of German soldiers who "emptied" the Romanian market of certain products, by artificially increase the price. German Troops of the Romanian territory, system of payments and deductions resulting from transport and communications activities will be other "hot spots" in collaboration with the Third Reich anti-Soviet war. While military units and German import-export companies are supplying the minimum prices of essentials products, imported from Germany were absolutely representative

for Romanian market needs, is delivered at prices far "swollen". Romania's complex situation internationally makes it extremely vulnerable to such claims of German ally, who was aware of the basic lack of any side effects such economic cooperation of the Romanian side. All these considerations, the shadow Romanian-German cooperation, resulted from the fact that, once accepted participation in the military campaign in the east, escaped from the Romanian authorities to the "small details of collaboration", although the legal situation of the Romanian state was like an independent and sovereign to fight against a common enemy. Comradeship in arms of two armed soldiers thus apparent from the terms of a military or political alliance treaty with Romania participating in the war on its own initiative, to free Bessarabia and Bukovina.

The events of August 23 will radically change Romania's international political conditions, which will be urged to fight for the same reasons, along with former enemies and former allies against. This turning Romania into the war progress, to cause considerable benefit to the United Nations, will be enormous cost, the Romanian authorities and military units "found only one time before two enemies", which cost her a large number of Romanian soldiers taken prisoner by Soviet troops. With all the losses of men and material of war, Romania will be able to align on 23 August, thanks to a cautious policy pursued by M.St.M. Romanian, five operational divisions, fully war, plus 29 other divisions, consisting largely of recruits and other regular, stationed troops in the sedentary services on the battlefield. Romanian military units in the front, were mostly disorganized and destroyed by the Soviet offensive, the military campaign against Nazi Germany will be made with these divisions of recruits in the country maintained constant by M.St.M. care.

The signing of the Armistice Convention between Romania and the United Nations September 12, 1944 will constitute the overall framework that will run Romania's military campaign against Germany and its satellites. Implement its terms be the responsibility of the Allied Commission (Soviet) control, as agreed Romania Big Three will throw into the arms of the Soviet Union. Brutal interference of representatives of the Audit will decisively affect the internal political events, while disturbing the state budget through massive withdrawals of goods seized in the Armistice Agreement. Although the document as "null and void" in Vienna dictate decision August 30, 1940, Article two of the Convention stipulate that Romania has to pay war damages worth 300 million dollars USSR and then other allies taking into

account parity of U.S. \$ 35 ounce of gold (according to reference year 1938 and not 1945 when the devaluation of the dollar was about six times the level of reference!). Romanian side expressed objections Ion Christu in talks with the Soviet showed that Romania could not support such an amount without being seriously impair the economic losses already given due participation in war and any costs incurred by Romania until the end of war.

In determining the amount of the Soviet assume that Romania has an income of about \$ 2 billion annually while taking into account the Romanian figure of 600 million dollars. The argument is based on the fact that:

- a. Romania held a war that has caused serious damage and human;
- b. Romania continued to participate in war with the Allies and it will still cost enough;
- c. Data used by the Soviet no longer valid because they were referring to Romania Mare and that when there are no discussions.

In order to apply the provisions of this Convention the two sides will conclude in Moscow in January 16, 1945 a new Convention way of payment of damages established by the Soviet Union as war: \$ 150 million oil, \$ 54 million timber, cattle and grain, 96 million U.S. dollar sea and river vessels, mechanical and railway material, and these prices are fixed in the year 1938 with an increase of 15% for mechanical material, rail and ship and 10% for other products. In May 1945 signed between the two governments, a new Romanian and Soviet economic cooperation agreement which established the Soviet-Romanian joint ventures (Sovrom) which will increase Romania's economic outbuilding to the USSR Improve as quickly decided to Romanian-Soviet relations and to obtain the liberation of Transylvania, the Romanian authorities will send to the front a larger military units than the 12 divisions provided the text of the armistice, passing widespread economic tasks of the Convention. As the number of Romanian troops engaged in military operations against German troops, it amounted to about 538,536 troops, a total of 1,100,000 assigned to the United Nations mobilized. Romanian armies have crossed between August 23, 1944 and May 12, 1945 1,700 km, in an average of 6 miles a day, have forced 12 streams, 20 mountains, taking the 3831 localities of which 53 major cities. All these feats were made with the sacrifice of 169,822 soldiers killed, wounded and missing. Romania's contribution to the cause of the United Nations will be significant, resulting in shortening the war by about 200

days and giving them an advantage strategic, significant human and material. Although Romania's war economic effort, amounted to the enormous amount of 1,200,000,000 dollars in 1938 currency, a situation an honorable fourth place in the hierarchy of the United Nations that led the fight against Germany, co-belligerent status, the country justly deserved our will be refused for political reasons known only to the Great Powers. Of all the states are in a situation somewhat similar to that of Romania, no one made an effort not so much military or economic in defeating the Nazi war machine.

Although fluctuating, because the Romanian-Soviet military protocol signed on 26 October, the Romanian military manpower employed theater will be permanently located above the minimums required by the Convention of Armistice. Moreover, Romania's contribution was all the authorities and people endeavoring to support significant military campaign of the Romanian troops. any military organizations, bands or any other association or military units have continued fighting the United Nations after the return of weapons against Germany on 23 August. For example, Italy has contributed with 100,000 supporters to the cause of the United Nations, while the five divisions of infantry and two squadrons of aircraft will continue fighting in Northern Italy from Germany. If Hungary is the number of 10 divisions, Bulgaria - a division of pro-fascist, Yugoslavia - 3 divisions, nine brigades plus a division and a cavalry guard. In France the number of those who continued fighting the Allies will rise to that of a fast and divisions in Poland, about 20 to 25,000 troops. Memorandum submitted by Romania at the Paris Peace Conference, recalled, in addition to military and economic war effort made by our country directly, the amount of obligations met by July 1, 1945, on behalf of the Convention and Article 3 in the amount 77 billion, currency in 1938.

The Romanian advance payment reduce damage to the United Nations subjects in Romania from 25% to 80%, limiting damages to August 23, removal of exemption for United Nations countries, recognition right to receive compensation from Germany and Hungary, and recognition of claims against Germany DM 1.056 million but they were not considered. Treaty in its final form will contain many provisions unfavorable Romanian side, some as unduly:

- a. Failing a co-belligerent status in Romania despite the economic and military effort or a ranked fourth in the world after the USA Soviet Union and the United Kingdom.
- b. Obligation to pay damages to the United Nations from subjects with September 1, 1939 despite the fact that Romania entered the war on June 22, 1944
- c. Payment of damages nationals after August 23, 1944 even if they were made by German and Hungarian armies
- d. Requirement giving up claims against Germany even though not each order

According to the Romanian side, the effort to implement the Armistice Agreement of 12 September 1944 and until February 12, 1947, the date of adoption of the Paris Peace Treaty Romania was to allocate significant financial resources as follows: \$ 75 million military maintenance Soviet war damages (spread over 8 years) \$ 300 million, return on assets of \$ 320 million, 200 million irregular levies \$ 150 million U.S. dollars reintegration rights of nationals of the United Nations and those, 50 million other tasks.

The defeat of Nazi Germany, much desired and welcomed by most people in Eastern and Southeastern Europe, not be cause for maximum enjoyment, whereas alternative communist system imposed a brutal Soviet model, will be repudiated in most of Eastern societies, disturbed by the war and "liberating Red Army". Hundreds of thousands of people would feel the full "benefit issuance Soviet" and political consequences of the transformation systems of their countries' regimes popular "Soviet-inspired, constituting a real and significant economic loss, and the policy issued by the Red Army all states!

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