

The process of embourgeoisment among the Romanians of Transylvania in the 2nd half of the 19th century

The purpose of this book is mapping the components of the process of embourgeoisment that started in the 2nd half of the 19th century among the Romanian elite and middle peasantry of Transylvania trying to point out the changes in the way of living and in the system of values: on one hand, in which measure became differentiated their social structure due to the challenges of capitalism, on the other hand, in which regions were created the most favourable conditions of the process. In addition to it the author tries to outline the economic and cultural activity of the Romanian middle class being in formation, that wanted to strenghten its positions and to widen its social base, and as a final object it insisted on the creation of an independent, ethnic-based Romanian „national economy”. The main source of the monography are three periodicals: the *Familia* edited by Iosif Vulcan between 1865–1906, that can be considered as the mouthpiece of the Romanian embourgeoisment process – it formed to a great extent the way of living, taste of the middle class and delivered a lot of pieces of information about schools, grants, associations, excellent personalities and social events. In addition the author selected a local newspaper, the *Revista Orăștiei* that was published in Orăștie between 1895–99; many theoretical articles were published here on social policy, national economy, culture and this organ informed about all the relevant events of the town and the region, Hunedoara county, too. The third periodical was the *Revista Economică* (1st volume), the monthly of the Romanian Bank Alliance, started in 1899, that discussed general economic issues, too. In addition to press, the author used some economic and hygienic brochures, a tourist guide, a manual on etiquette, a moral guideline for girls, an annual report of the women’s club of Sibiu, the almanach of those of Cluj and Hunedoara county, and the memoirs of Elena Pop Hossu Longin, chairperson of the latter. From territorial aspect the book gives a more detailed analysis on the development of the former Königboden

(South Transylvania) on the base of local monographs on some villages near to Sibiu, because first of all it was this region that offered the most favourable conditions for the embourgeoisment of the peasantry. The author tries to compare his results with the situation in Romania. The contemporaries were aware of the different way of national development on the two sides of the Carpathian mountains, and this discrepancy became a source of many political and cultural problems after the Union in 1918.

The author at first tries to sketch the chances and the process of the formation of the Romanian middle class, the role of the „intelligentsia” and its efforts toward the creation of the independent national economy and culture. This part is followed by narrower chapters that examine the state of Romanian society in general (agriculture, domestic industry, handicrafts, commerce, banks), the questions of social stratification and cohesion, the progress of urbanisation and the modernisation of the villages. The second large thematic unit deals with the individual’s everyday life (housing conditions, nutrition, hygiene, dressing, sport), while the third major chapter focuses on the family life (marriage motivations, division of labour, education of the children, female roles). The last main chapter tries to map the constituents of the spirit of the nation (questions of national character, the role of the churches, schools – mainly the girls’ schools –, the importance of the self- and adult education – popular booklets, libraries, popular-science lectures, recitation evenings). After this the book looks over the association life (cultural associations, reading circles, choirs, amateur theatrical companies), and at the end it enumerates the national cultural heritage (traditional costume, mother tongue, folk poetry, press, literature, theatre, music and dance life, national museum and national exhibitions).