

Tepeș were alive today he would turn over in his grave.” And that would not be desirable for either historians or laymen.

The book has an excellent set of notes and a splendid bibliography.

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SOCIETATEA FEUDALĂ ROMĂNEASCĂ VĂZUTĂ DE CĂLĂTORI STRĂINI (SECOLELE XV–XVIII). By *Paul Cernovodeanu*. *Istorie și Civilizație*. Bucharest: Editura Academiei Republicii Socialiste România, 1973. 273 pp. Lei 15, paper.

This work presents a complex picture of Rumanian society in the fifteenth through eighteenth centuries as found in the accounts of foreign travelers. The author, Paul Cernovodeanu, a scholar thoroughly familiar with the period, drew also upon the work of a team of scholars from Bucharest (of which he is a member), who are the collective authors of *Călători străini despre țările române* (Editura Științifică). Yet above all these efforts looms the figure of Nicolae Iorga as initiator, model, and stimulus. Iorga was the pioneer who made extensive use of the observations of foreign travelers, and created on this basis a four-volume synthesis, *Istoria Românilor prin călători* (1st ed., 1920; 2nd ed., 1928).

Cernovodeanu's book has four major sections: the Rumanian territory; the origins of the people and their language; the political, social, and military organization of the state; and cultural and artistic creativity. The scope of the book and the careful selection of sources are in keeping with the objectives of the *Istorie și Civilizație* series—that is, to offer a broad view, the essential elements, to a public larger than the scholarly community.

Cernovodeanu has included many excerpts from the sources. Certain of these sources, because of their complexity, authenticity, or controversial authors, appear repeatedly throughout the work—for example, Jean Louis Carra's *Histoire de Moldavie et de la Vallachie* (1777), F. J. Sulzer's *Geschichte des Transalpinischen Daciens* (1781), Andreas Wolf's *Beiträge* (1804), and Del Chiaro's *Istoria delle moderne rivoluzioni della Vallachia* (1718). For the seventeenth century the focus is *Seyâhatnâme*, by the Ottoman scholar Evlyia Celeby, as well as the comments and statistics compiled by the Bulgarian Catholic bishop Pietro Deodato (Bogdan) Baksich. Also emphasized are the journal of the Pomeranian pastor Conrad J. Hildebrandt, the descriptions of the Syrian archdeacon Paul d'Aleppo, and the so-called *Codex Bandinus* from the same epoch. For the sixteenth century, equal attention is paid to the notes left by Giovan-Andrea Gromo (1564–65), the mercenary captain from the court of John Sigismund Zapolya, and to the *Memoriale* (1581) written by the Genoan Franco Sivori, secretary of the Wallachian prince, Petru Cercel.

Separation of the major excerpts from the author's own text by indentation or the use of a different kind of type would have improved the readability of the book. This need is compensated for to some extent by the index, which includes the names of the more than one hundred travelers cited or mentioned in the study. The book is, however, not an anthology. It is a successful blending of commentaries inspired by the sources with examples from the most significant ones.

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