

**SILVIU MILOIU, ROMÂNIA ȘI ȚĂRILE BALTICE ÎN PERIOADA
INTERBELICĂ
(EDITURA CETATEA DE SCAUN, TÂRGOVIȘTE, 2003)**

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This book, whose author is a lecturer in the Department of History, at the "Valahia" University of Târgoviște, obviously aims at proposing a parallel in understanding the foreign policy of Romania and the Baltic states during the interwar period. In order to achieve this purpose, the author identifies not only the similar trends in the foreign policy of the four states - Romania, Lithuania, Estonia, Letonia, but also the different foreign conditions confronting them.

As to its structure, the book has a number of 5 chapters, reflecting the basic angles of approach. A first chapter deals with a short history of the Romania's relations with the Baltic States before the First World War and the 2nd chapter is devoted to the course of consular and diplomatic relations after the war. The third chapter analyses Romania's and the Baltic states positions concerning the European collective security concerns, to further deal with the Romania's position regarding the creation and strengthening of the Baltic Antante. The fifth chapter is especially dedicated to the way Romania perceived the events leading to the annexations of the Baltic States (1938-1940).

Along these main lines, one can notice the author's ability in rebuilding the image of the official Romanian relations with the Baltic states and also in presenting the interests involved in the collective security ideas and plans at the time in these states.

The way the Romanian diplomacy evaluated the Baltic policies makers concerning the European collective security plans is also an interesting angle exploited in the book, as the author pays a special attention to the Baltic projects trying to increase the level of national security of these states. Silviu MiloIU obviously sees a connection between these projects and the Romanian similar concerns, which directly motivated in fact this attention.

The last chapter, presenting the annexation of the Baltic countries by the Soviet Union provides a fresh insight as it insists on the attitude and reactions both of the Romanian diplomats and of the Romanian press toward these tragic events which eventually put also an end to the Romania's relations with the Baltic States in 1940.

On the whole, this book can be counted as a new contribution to the historiography concerning the interwar period having in mind especially the rare substantial references concerning the relations between Romania and the Baltic States, during this period. The credit for its merit must be given, first of all, to the new informations gathered from the Romanian archives and also, for the first time, from the Finish and Estonian archives.

The bibliography of the book is generally remarkable, the conclusions are rich, suggesting many analogies to be found in the relations developed between Romania and the Baltic States, in their international particular conditions, during the twenties and thirties of the XXth century. To avoid the possible exaggeration, one can also underline that comparing to the major international relations, the relations under discussion are obviously, are not of a conforming type, due to their modest extent but also to the bilateral lack of reciprocal knowledge, both of the Romanians and of the Baltic peoples. But their relations were, as the author pleads, enough significant to add a new dimension to the complexity of the interwar patterns in international relations.

This book, in other words, clearly invites us to more carefully reflect on similarities and individuality in treating the history of international relations in Eastern Europe as they developed during the interwar period and on possible suggestions for today course of such relations.

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