

# THE ROLE OF POLISH MINORITY AT THE ECONOMIC MODERNIZATION OF ROMANIA

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## **Abstract**

The Poles had over time a special historical lineage, sui generis with us, Romanians. In the Middle Ages, Romanian countries were historically the cradle of crafts Polish and trade flourished. Then, in the modern and contemporary period, the Polish state has been based on the Romanian state to cope and succeed despite the vicissitudes of history. For a quarter century we see a revival of Polish-Romanian relations based on historical truth, traditions and customs, mutual respect in all actions.

**Keywords:** polish minority, economic development, romanian economy

**JEL classification:** B00, J10, N00

## **Introduction**

### **Polish people presence in the economy of the romanian countries, in XIII century and seventeenth century**

Contacts between the polish and romanians, dating back to the mid-XIII centuries - in Transylvania and XIV - when it was founded Principality of Moldavia and land annexed by the Polish king Casimir Ariciului of III the Great (1333-1370) . When was built many places of worship in the Transylvanian city of Bistrita, Sic, Unguraş was attended also the Polish masons and craftsmen. Neighbouring led to the establishment of intense political, economic and cultural relations between the Polish and Moldavia, and Transylvania, which will be strengthened with links naturally and family blood relationships [Wikipedia, 2015, Polonezii din Romania].

At stake was controlling the main trade routes that crossed the Europe from north to south and connected the Baltic to the Black Sea and further the Mediterranean Sea. Thus, grain and cloth Polish were arrived at Brusa, Constantinople and Pera. At the same time, that trade route from Lviv was intersected with other important trade route which linked East and West. There were thus two trade routes - "Moldovan şleahul" who went about Moldova along the Prut River to White Castle (Akerman) and "Tartar şleahul".

In their policy to limit the influence of Hungarian, the Moldavian princes, were oriented from the outset towards Poland. They granted to Polish nobles broad privileges, allowing them to open trade houses in major cities in which to sell goods. Sometimes, were offered the Poles nobles, the estates into territories of Moldova. The Roman Voda, son of Ilyas, he gave Buczacki Dietrich, the noble Cameniţei and Podolia, several villages for his help offered for coming up in the throne. On these estates was working also Polish peasants, many of them escaped by other feudal estates.

After the first divided of Poland in 1772, many Poles came to Moldova, but their migration was stopped by the Austrian authorities. The discovery of salt deposits led to open mines in Solca (1784), Cacica (1785), and then from Slatina Mare, Slătioara, Trestioara, Pleşa etc. In 1792, after he inaugurated the great exploitation of Cacica, Austrian authorities bring here 20 families of Polish, miners experienced connoisseurs of the characteristic of such operations. The settlement grew quickly in 1810 reached 305 souls, and eight years later became a village almost entirely Polish - the school where it is taught in four languages: Polish, Romanian, German and Ukrainian. Besides school, an important role in the lives of people in Cacica played church, built between 1807-1810 by Father Jakub efforts Bogdanowicz priest employee of the mine.

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The Muntenian Polish, natives of Beskizii Silesian, was built in Bucovina the compact settlements, first in the region Cadca in Slovakia, where, because heavy conditions, have resettled since 1803, Chernivtsi, district Caliceanca, then Cacica, Siret and Stara Huta. In 1834, 30 families of Polish muntenian, originally from Hliboca founded a new village Solonețul. Two years later, Poles have migrated south from Caliceanca where founded the village Pleșa. To them, were added those people from Tereblești and Stara Huta. In 1842, others Polish people from Tereblești and Stara Huta, founded together with about 30 families Germans from Sudeten, a settlement named Little Opening. Generally speaking, the role of these migrations was to populate the abandoned popular areas by Romanian, but also decongest overcrowded settlements. The moved people, has received by 30 acres land and enjoyed tax exemption for 10 years. The thirst for land, however, was so great that it led to the dispersal of Poles in several zone.

## **Description of the problem**

### **The Polish presence in the Romanian economy in the nineteenth century and the twentieth century.**

After was made the defeating Tadeusz Kosciuszko insurrection in 1794 followed by the third divided of Poland, in 1795, many Poles have gone in Moldova and the Romanian Country, following the call, "Who loves his homeland go to Wallachia". A new wave of immigrants occurred in the nineteenth century, after the suppression of the Polish uprising in November 1830. The national strongest Polish emigration was concentrated in Moldova. Romania was considered "the most friendly and favorable territory." Through the Polish supporter is included also the Prince Alexandru Ioan Cuza, who gladly sign the orders appointing their in the important functions. His current doctor, was a doctor from Krakow, Feliks Gluck and executive - a naturalized Polish, Nicolai Pisetki.

World War II, began with the occupation of Poland and the largest wave of emigration Polish Romania: the figure was around 70,000 refugees persons according to some sources, and after another 100,000. On this occasion they founded numerous professional associations, meeting the Union of Poles in Romania, which at December 19, 1939, transformed in the Union of Poles in Romania.

### **Polish Communities at the beginning of the century and millennium**

The Polish community is widespread in the north, mainly in Suceava county. 15 804 people of Polish ethnicity were recorded in the 1930 census.

According to the National Commission for Statistics, in 1992, 4247 Poles living in Romania (representing 0.02% of the population); most lived in Suceava (2778) and Bucharest (355), Hunedoara County (248) and Timis (107). The leadership of the Union of Poles of Romania "Dom Polski" declared that the ethnic Poles number is higher, about 10,000 people, but for various reasons, some of them declare themselves of Romanian nationality. According to the census of March 2002, 3,559 citizens of Polish ethnicity lived in Romania, of which 2,609 in Suceava.

The most representative Polish communities are meet especially in Moldavia, in Suceava County, in Cacica, Chernivtsi, Caliceanca, Tereblecea, Solonețul New Plera, Poiana Small, Vicșani (Ruda) Păltineasa and Mill (Bulai).

Union of Poles in Romania was established on 16 March 1990 with the name of Union of Poles in Romania in Bucharest "Dom Polski" the initiative of a group of Poles in Bucharest. Currently the organization has 15 local associations.

On May 20, 1990 was established and the Association of Poles in Suceava. Its president was Rojowski Antoni, who has worked since before the Second World War, in the Relief Association Polish Brothers and Library, established in 1903 in Suceava.

The Union of Poles is the only organization of Poles in Romania. It includes Polish communities in Bucovina, Suceava County villages, and Poles in the land, organized in associations working in big cities. The Union work is mainly to preserve, traditions and culture, learning the Polish language, maintaining links with Poland and shown concern for Polish communities in Romania.

## Conclusions

The destinies of Poles in Romania faithfully reflect the history of the Romanian and Polish peoples, as the relations established between them over time [Petrica Ion,2014,p.1].

The Poles had ,over time, a special historical lineage, sui generis with us, Romanians. In the Middle Ages, Romanian countries was a historic swing where the crafts and trade made by Poland was flourished. Then, in the modern and contemporary period, the Polish state was based on the Romanian state to cope and succeed with growth in the vicissitudes of history. For a quarter century we see a revival of the Polish-Romanian relations based on historical truth, traditions and customs, mutual respect in all actions. Like other minorities case, is a lack of studies to assess the contribution of the Polish minority in Romania's economic development.

### Prominent Poles IN ROMANIA

- In alphabetical order -

1. Tadeusz Aidukiewicz painter, has works at the Art Museum of Romania.
2. Josef Bem, general participant in the revolution of 1848-1849, leader of the Hungarian army against the Habsburg and Tsarist.
3. H. Dąbrowski, General Mayor of Bucharest (1940-1942).
4. Kond Dombrowski, a painter, has works at the Art Museum of Romania.
5. Władysław Dunin, an engineer and journalist.
6. George Duzincovici, historian, professor at the Institute of Polish Southeastern Europe, an official at the Romanian Academy contributor to Polish and Romanian historical journals in the second half of the twentieth century.
7. A. Fialkowski, owner of the famous cafés in the National Theatre Square in Iasi.
8. Theophilus Glück, personal physician of Prince Al Cuza.
9. Izidor Kopernicki, strălucit anthropologist named in 1866 director of the Museum of Anatomy attached Colțea Hospital, was awarded the gold medal "Bene Merenti" the Romanian Ministry of Education.
10. Julian Lukaszewski, senior doctor at the hospital in Pașcani, founded in 1866 Mihăileni first Polish library in Romania.
11. Fred Micos, illustrator and painter, painted the Catholic churches in Suceava, Siret Boian, New Solonețu participated in 74 group exhibitions worldwide.
12. Andrei Ostop, sculptor.
13. Gustav Otremba (from 1833 to 1891), is the head physician of the body colonel rank fourth Romanian Army participates actively in the Romanian War of Independence (1877-78) and was president of the Society of Physicians and Naturalists of Iasi (1887 -1891); It was also a talented composer and - a compound with Eduard Caudella, music operetta "Oltenca". It was among the doctors who had consulted on Mihai Eminescu in Iasi on July 14, 1887.
14. Niculai Pisotki, Romanian army colonel, adjutant of Prince Al Cuza.
15. Teodor Rogalski, musician
16. Roll-Piekarski Witold (1857-1909), professor of drawing at Slatina and Targu Jiu, cartoonist and caricaturist unsurpassed appreciated the Romanian Encyclopedia 1904 as "the greatest caricaturist of Romania". He participated in the founding of Gorj County Museum and was Director of the School of toys Novaci (Gorj).
17. Octavian Smigelski, painter, with works from the Brukenthal Museum, the Art Museum in Bucharest, Cluj, Budapest, painted churches in the county. Alba, Bistrita and Timis County
18. Ferdynand M. Twornikiewicz, founder and editor of Poland "Wiarus".

19. Jan Zaplachta-Zapołowicz, entrepreneur, 1863 Polish insurrection participant, founder of the Association of Unions of Poles (Towarzystwo Wzaemnej Pomocy Polakow).

20. Jan Zaplachta, physician, active member of the "Circle Poland" ("Koto Polski") in Bucharest.

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