

## THE DEMOCRATIC STATE — OPTION AND COMPONENT OF THE GREAT UNION

### SUMMARY

The present paper analyses the essential documents which preceded and prepared the Great Union of 1918 as well as the acts which show the Union of Bassarabia, Bukowina, and Transylvania with Romania from the perspective of the aspiration of the Romanian people towards a parliamentary regime, constitutional and democratic. The conclusion is that in 1918 the Romanians were animated by democratic ideals which they expressed in their decisions of Union from Chişinău (March 1918), Cernăuţi (November 1918) and Alba Iulia (1 December 1918). The most representative spokesmen of the Romanian people, Iuliu Maniu, Vasile Goldiş, Ioan Nistor, G. Grigorovici, P. Halipa etc., gave expression to these democratic aspirations of the people from Transylvania, Bukowina and Bassarabia, aiming at a deep reformation of the Romanian society in the spirit of an advanced social democracy. The social and political democracy advocated by the authors of the Great Union of 1918 was considered a guarantee of the solidity and durability of the Romanian national state. A permanent concern of those who made the Great Union was to fully guarantee both liberty and equality in rights and obligations of the national minorities.

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Thus, from an option and a component of the Great Union, the democratic state became a reality in Romania between the two World Wars as a result of the application of the 1923 Constitution, of the agrarian and electoral reforms and of other laws with democratic and liberal character.

The democratic spirit of the Constitution of the Unification, the political multipartitism and the liberty of the expression, meeting and association established a constitutional, deeply democratic regime in Romania between 1918—1938, which contrasted with the totalitar regimes set up in other European countries in the period between the two World Wars.

With all its limits and imperfections, the democratic regime from Romania between the two World Wars was a reflection of the Great Union from 1918 and a guarantee of its duration.