

EUROPEAN MEMOIRS ABOUT ROMANIA DURING THE NEUTRAL YEARS (1914 - 1916)

(3rd part)

(SUMMARY)

In the same time with the battles fought by the armies of the belligerent states during the World War Ist, behind the first line of the front developed another fight, with incidents connected directly to the events on the battle fields. Judging by the results obtained in military confrontations, each champ tried to win on their side the neutral countries. A ruthless, undignified fight was carried for Italy, Sweden, Turkey, Bulgaria, Greece and Romania. Due to its position, military power and upward obtained at the end of Balkanian War, Romania was the most important target for both champs.

The problem of the territories - outside the country's boundaries (Transylvania, Bucovina, Basarabia) - which had Romanian inhabitants represented the key of Romania joining the war. Both, Antanta and Central Powers were interested in these territories. Each government had own positions concerning their interests.

The present study talks about the memoirs of a few European political and military personalities contemporary to the World War Ist. From these memoirs I took and developed the information concerning the relations between Romania and the Central Powers during Romania's neutral years (1914-1916). We're talking about the information with political character, own opinions and interpretations of the people from political and military level. The present study continues the series of the previous two studies referring to European memoirs:

- I - concerning the Romanian neutral period (published in *Apulum* XXXIV)
- II - talking about Romania and Antanta's relations during 1914-1916 (for publishing in *Apulum* XXXV)

Now we finish the series referring to considerations about diplomatic relations between Central Powers and Romanian Government until Romania joining the war in the summer of 1916.

The most important issue concerned Transylvania. In order to solve Transylvania's political problem, they had to convince Hungarian Prime Minister, Tisza. Austrian-Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bucharest had two options, proposed by German Ministry in Bucharest, in order to achieve Romania's active cooperation:

1. granting independence for the Romanians from Transylvania and surrendering Suceava and Rădăuți counties from Bucovina to Romania, or
2. granting political status to Transylvania and surrendering the two counties to Romania.

Hungarian Government of Prime Minister Tisza Istvan refused any discussions that could affect Hungarian nobles position of maintaining Transylvania inside Hungary's boundaries, which - in fact - met undermining Romania - Central Powers relations, maintaining neutral position, and, finally, Romania joining the war besides Antanta. All these events are known in Romanian and European historiography but the memoirs of those who tried to describe war's developing add a flavour of colour and spice to basic historical fact through own opinions.