

## Teză de abilitare

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# Seimenii în Țările Române

Contribuții la istoria organizării militare a românilor  
în secolele XVII-XVIII



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## **Abstract**

The present work *Seymens in the Romanian Principalities. Contributions to history of the Romanians military organization in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries*, aims to illustrate as closely as possible the most important scientific and professional achievements of the candidate as well as his research directions in the field of history. The candidate pursues both to develop his scientific and professional activity, and to explicitly focus his full attention on certain lines of research.

As it was structured, the habilitation thesis reflects the entire course made by the candidate in his career, from receiving the PhD degree in History until the moment of evaluation. The first part of the thesis, i.e. Section A, shows not only the scientific and professional work of the candidate, resulting in a series of articles, studies and books, but also his future projects, with a view to develop personal career both scientifically and in terms of teaching.

It is also worth mentioning that throughout his scientific activity the candidate showed a constant concern for the critical analysis of historical and narrative sources as well as oral, ethnographic and iconographic sources. Equally, the candidate dealt with older or newer historiographical concerns in his research work, thus addressing various issues that aroused his interest.

Also in the first part of the habilitation thesis, namely the contents of Chapters II, III and IV, the candidate brings up and analyzes relevant issues that define the previously announced topic, so they highlight, among others, historical sources and methods of investigation and interpretation used by the candidate in his historiographical endeavor and in other older or newer similar research.

The comprehensive approach and analysis of such an issue is more than necessary, given that more than a century has elapsed since the first historical study on the Seymen' uprisings in Wallachia (1653-1655), by the great historian Nicolae Iorga, and at least five decades since the last appearance of special works dedicated to the

great uprising of Seymen mercenaries in Wallachia and Moldavia (1655), one belonging to historian Paul I. Cernovodeanu (*Uprising of Seymen and foot soldiers in Bucharest, 1655*, Bucharest, 1961) and the second constituting a joint scientific contribution of historians Lidia Demény Ludovic Demény and Nicolae Stoicescu (*Uprising of seymen or popular uprising? 1655. Wallachia*, Bucharest, 1968). We should also mention the important contribution of the historian Nicolae Stoicescu regarding categories of servants and mercenaries in the Romanian Principalities during the 16h-18th centuries (*Curtiers and servants. Contributions to the history of the Romanian Army*, Bucharest, 1968).

The list of publications in the first part of the habilitation thesis reflects on the one hand the candidate's interest for some economic, social, political and miliary aspects very little analysed in our historiography which are required to be more nuanced or even reviewed. However, the list reveals the progress made by the candidate in his scientific and academic career. Most scientific contributions mentioned in the first part of the habilitation thesis are the result of research in archives and national libraries while others, fewer in number, are the result of collaborations with specialists recognized both nationally, and internationally.

The works published in periodicals and journals or in books issued nationally at famous publishing houses, as well as participation in national conferences relevant for the research areas demonstrates undeniable relevance and impact of his scientific results.

The results obtained by the candidate may, at least, represent a starting point in new historiographical approach, both in terms of short and long-term infiltration of foreign merchant elements (Balkan, Greek and Turkish) in the economic and social structures of Wallachia, especially foreign infiltration in political and military structures of the Romanian Principalities.

Based on these new analyses, we can better understand how Wallachia and Moldavia were integrated in the economic, political and military Ottoman system

during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, despite the fact that they were not converted effectively into provinces of the Ottoman Empire.

Short and medium term, the candidate seeks, among other things, to resume research projects abandoned for more or less objective reasons, to complete ongoing projects and even to develop new research directions (historical demography, cultural history).

Professional and didactic achievements of the candidate are illustrated in Section B of the habilitation thesis. All actions undertaken by the candidate highlight on the one hand, his efforts to diversify and improve the teaching and learning activities, to transmit students knowledge, skills and abilities that contribute to their professional training and integration into society. On the other hand, the candidate endeavours to encourage students, master students and PhD students in the field of history, creativity and teamwork, especially their involvement in research and cultural projects to promote local, national and regional history.