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STATE AND SOCIETY IN INTERWAR ROMANIA: HISTORICAL AND POLITICAL ANALYSIS

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The interwar period has historically been a fateful and specific stage of development at the local, regional and global levels. Transformations of territorial-political and social character directly affected the destiny of the countries and peoples of Central and Eastern Europe, where deep internal changes took place quickly, supplemented by the strong influence of external factors due to the rapid growth of international subjectivity and involvement into the orbit of confrontation of the great powers of the time.

The Igor Piddubny's (Associate Professor of Modern and Contemporary History of the National University of Chernivtsi named after Igor Fedkovych) monograph as an actual subject of scientific analysis is devoted to a comprehensive study of the development and interaction of structural elements of the political system of Romania in 1918-1940 on the example of the study of the mechanisms of functioning of the parliamentary, governmental and royal-monarchical branches of government in Romania mainly in the interwar period.

Chronologically, the monographic work covers the period of the 1910s – 1930s of the 20th century. For the lower chronological limit 1913 was chosen, when the Bucharest Peace Treaty was concluded, which ended the Second Balkan War and made it possible to include the territory of Dobrogea in Romania. The upper chronological limit was 1940, when Romania lost part of its territory; this was accompanied by changes of political leaders and the political regime in the country.

The territorial boundaries of scientific research have three planes. The first concerns 1913-1918 and covers the Kingdom of Romania from the end of the Second Balkan War to April 1918, when Bessarabia was annexed. Second, 1918-1940, the Kingdom of Romania included Bessarabia, Bukovina, Ardial, Crisana, Maramures, and Banat. The third, final stage of the period studied, when Romania

existed within the new borders, which did not include Bessarabia, Northern Bukovina and the northwestern part of Ardial. This approach allowed the author of the monograph to trace the peculiarities of changes in the political life of the country 1913-1940.

In the process of scientific research and presentation of its results, I. Piddubny relied on the use of a number of modern and classical scientific methods (synchronous, structural-functional and interdisciplinary approaches and special-historical methods – comparative-historical, problem-chronological, statistical, and descriptive). Based on the principles of historicism and objectivity, the work studies the nature and dynamics of interaction between different structural elements of the political system.

We agree here with the author that the scientific novelty of historical research is primarily that it addresses the pressing problem of formation and development of the political system of society in the country, formed as a result of unification of territories belonging to different states and had different degrees of political development and political freedom. The historiographical analysis performed gives grounds to conclude that the monograph of I. Piddubny is the first comprehensive scientific study in Ukrainian historical science devoted to the problem of the functioning of the political system of Romania in the interwar period.

The study is based on a wide range of sources, which by common features or purpose can be divided into several groups: archival materials (the funds of the Central State Archive of the highest authorities and administration of Ukraine (Kyiv), the State Archive of Chernivtsi region, the National Central Historical Archive of Bucharest); published documents; laws and legislation; memoir literature; journalistic publications and periodicals; publications of political parties; reference and fiction.

The monographic work is marked by a clear, well-thought-out, logical structure, which contributed to the successful implementation of the goals and objectives of scientific research. Piddubny comprehensively and scientifically presented: the results of the study of various aspects of the formation of the territory of “Greater Romania” in 1914-1918 and the attitude of the international community to this at the Paris Peace Conference of 1919-1920; the role and place of bourgeois parties (National Liberal, Tserenist and National) and parliament in the country’s political system; the struggle of left-wing parties (primarily the Socialists and Communists) for a place in the political system of society; positions of right-wing radical forces (League of National Christian Defense, National Christian Party, National Revival Front, etc.) in the political life of Romanian society of the interwar period; the activities and role of the institution of royal power in Romania, in particular in the context of its evolution into a royal dictatorship; political and economic activities of Romanian governments in the process of interwar evolution and transformation of the political system of society.

The conclusion of the author of the monograph that the political system of the Kingdom of Romania in the interwar period is characterized by a combination of new and old elements. The main feature that united old and new factors and forms of political life was the oligarchic system and its modernization with the use of traditional means.

Monograph of Piddubny is scientifically balanced and thorough, but causes some reflections of a critical and recommendatory nature.

We draw attention to the differences in determining the chronological limits of the study. The author of the monograph in the formulation of the topic of work, purpose and subject of scientific research in general clearly defines them in the period of 1918-1939/1940. At the same time, in the formulation of the object of study and substantiation of its chronological and territorial boundaries, there are somewhat different time frames of work: 1913-1939/1940. The content of the monographic work also testifies to breaking 1918 as a formal lower limit.

Given the nature and subject matter of the study, it was worth expanding the range of methods used. It is also appropriate to use the biographical method, the method of system analysis, the method of temporal modeling, the method of historical-retrospective analysis and comparative analog method. In the context of discussions on the use of the works of "historical sociology" we consider it appropriate to address the approaches of Polish sociologists M. Kulia and long-time head of the International Association of Sociologists P. Shtompka.

In general, remarks, wishes and recommendations do not significantly affect the proper professional scientific and theoretical level of historical research. This allows us to conclude about the complete, original, complex nature of the monograph of Piddubny.

The practical significance of the fundamental provisions and conclusions of scientific work lies primarily in the fact that they can be used in writing generalizing studies, in reading normative and special courses on the history of Romania. The material of the monographic research can serve as a basis for creation of expositions of museums of local lore and historical profile on the corresponding subjects.

Peer-reviewed monograph by Piddubny is intended primarily for professionals in the field of European history and politics in the period between the two world wars. It serves as an excellent inspiration for new scientific explorations of a special historical and synthetic nature, both in the history and politics of Romania and in the countries and peoples of Central and Eastern Europe of the interwar period.

