

Loredana Maria Ilin-Grozoiu, *Sistemul constituțional românesc 1821-1923 (Romanian constitutional system 1821-1923)*, Craiova, Publishing House Aius, 2009, 395 p.

In 2009, the Publishing House Aius from Craiova edited the book *Sistemul constituțional românesc (1821-1923), Romanian constitutional system (1821-1923)*, of the scientific researcher Dr. Loredana Maria Ilin-Grozoiu. The author had researched this theme with a lot of perseverance, her striving to deepen a subject so ample, being finalized into a valuable scientific contribution, impressive both through its documentaries basis, and its volume, 395 pages. The scientific approach was based on the study of a vast bibliography, from which does not lack the unpublished sources, the edit ones, the documents, the correspondence, the speeches, the memoirs and official publications.

On the ground of this documentation, systematically approached, the author has structured her work into seven chapters, respecting the chronological criterion for the issue classification and the evolution of the Romanian constitutional system, for the period of 1821-1923. To the seven chapters - *Începuturile constituționalismului în Principatele Române* (The beginnings of constitutionalism in the Romanian principalities); *Texte cu caracter constituțional până la Regulamentele Organice* (Texts of a constitutional nature untill the Organic Regulation regime); *Regulamentele Organice – între anacronic și modern* (Organic Regulations - between anachronistic and modern); *Proiecte constituționale în perioada regulamentară: 1838-1847* (Constitutional projects in the regular period: 1838-1847); *Momentul 1848 – programe și constituții naționale* (The 1848 moment – national programs and constitutions); *Modernizarea Principatelor Române sub raport constituțional în perioada 1849-1866* (The Romanian principalities modernization under the constitutional rapport in the period 1849-1866); *Constituția din anul 1866* (1866 Constitution of Romania); *Constituția din anul 1923* (1923 Constitution of Romania) – are added the conclusions, an English summary and the bibliography. Each chapter has several subchapters, serving to the orderly undertaken analysis, and the appropriate language denotes the easiness with which the authors place herself in the logic of facts and conclusions. The approaching of the subject was done by the double qualification of the author, the historian and the lawyer one.

After a series of historical considerations, in the introductory study, the author thoroughly examines the historiography of the broached subject, stressing on the merits of the authors who were concerned with the research, in various ways, of the subject.

In the first chapter, the author has found it necessary to analyze the normative writings, emerged since the beginnings of modernity in the Romanian principalities. Thus, a special attention has been given to constitutional formulation in the context of the Tudor Vladimirescu's action. There were not even forgotten the memories and reform projects, sent to Russia and to Ottoman Empire in the period 1821-1832, the authors analyzing: the project sent to Russia, at the end of 1821, by Alexandru Villara; Wallachian boyars statement, *Îndreptarea țării (după cele) ce a pătimit țara la 1821 de la străini* (The Correction of the country (after) what it suffered in 1821 from the foreigners); Alexandru Villar's statement of 1822; *Cererile cele mai însemnătoare ce se fac din partea obștei Moldaviei, Constituția cărvunarilor* (The main demands of the Moldova's people, the Constitution of the cărvunari).

In the second chapter, the author treats the *Organic Regulations*, which was a transition stage from feudalism to capitalism, prefacing the modern organization of the Romanian state. The Regulations have played the role of the constitution, being introduced in 1831 in Wallachia and in 1832 in Moldova. They have organized on modern basis the public services, have established the national militia, have modernized the financial system, have abolished the purchasing of functions, have formed a legislative assembly, have provided the choice of the ruler for life etc.

The memoirs issued to some officials of Russia, by the nobility and rulers of the Romanian principalities, between 1834-1839, were treated by the author in the third chapter of the paper. A large part of this chapter was devoted to the life and work of John Cămpineanu, one of the foremost fighters for independence and national dignity, the author of key documents, including: *Act of Union and independence* and *the Constitution Draft*.

In the fourth chapter were analyzed, from historical and legal point of view, the principles inserted in the memoirs, the political acts and the drafts of the 1848 Constitution. The Revolution of 1848 was an important moment in terms of the relations between the Romanians from all historical provinces, helping to clarify and to establish the appropriate means, for building the modern Romania.

In the fifth chapter, the author studies the evolution of constitutional forms in the context of historical events, among which, the reign of Al. I. Cuza or the brink of the foreign prince.

The Constitutions of the years 1866 and 1923 are analyzed in Chapters VI - VII of the paper. There were stressed the changes intervened in the formulation of these constitutions, for achieving the goals, both liberals and democratic. The 1866 Constitution laid the foundation of the representative system of government in the modern Romanian state. They were proclaimed the civil rights; it was provided the removal of privileges, free education, press freedom, the separation powers principles, the switch from elective to the hereditary rule, there were established the prerogatives of the king etc. The 1923 Constitution was viewed and analyzed by the author, as a natural fulfillment of the previous Romanian constitutional aspirations.

Through the way of approaching the topic and through its conclusions, the presented paper, *Sistemul constituțional românesc (1821-1923)* (Romanian constitutional system (1821-1923)), enriches the Romanian historiography with concrete evidences, regarding the constitutional formulations and historical circumstances that they have generated.

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