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experienced and less experienced linguists and epigraphers. It provides much important data on language of epigraphy in Dacia and can be useful for assessing the degree of acculturation in that province. This publication has the potential to serve as a source for further research on the topic of the language

of Dacia, but also to stimulate similar research on other provinces. Moreover, it lends itself to various comparisons and can help provide a clearer picture of the Latin language in the Danubian provinces and the lives of their citizens.

TUDOR DINU, *REVOLUȚIA GREACĂ DE LA 1821 PE TERITORIUL MOLDOVEI ȘI ȚĂRII ROMÂNEȘTI*, BUCUREȘTI: HUMANITAS, 2022, 368 p.

Reviewed by Marija Milinković*

Tudor Dinu, professor at the Faculty of Foreign Languages and Literatures at the University of Bucharest, marked the two-hundredth anniversary of the Greek Revolution and the revolutionary movement in the Romanian lands with the book *Revoluția Greacă de la 1821 pe teritoriul Moldovei și Țării Românești*. In the foreword of this book, which, in addition to the introduction and conclusion, contains 14 chapters, the author states the reasons why this topic has not been extensively researched either in Greek or Romanian historiography. For Greek historians, he assumes that the main obstacles are the numerous sources in the Romanian language that testify about the actions of the Greeks in the territory of the principalities of Wallachia and Moldavia, whereas for many Romanian historians, the execution of Tudor Vladimirescu, the Romanian national hero, committed by the Eteria, is an obstacle for an objective judgment of the actions and the importance of the Filiki Heteria movement in the Romanian territories. Tudor Vladimirescu's movement was a central topic in Romanian historiography for a long time. In contrast, Romanian historical scholarship tended to marginalize the movement of Filiki Eteria, although its consequences for Wallachia and Moldavia were significant. Using numerous

written sources in Romanian and Greek (many of them presented for the first time), Dinu comprehensively approached this complex topic, trying to reveal the goals of both movements and break down the background of their conflicts without dividing the characters into good and bad. In his account, Dinu scrupulously adheres to this principle, often citing several sources about the same event.

As the title of the book suggests, the main plot concerns the eterist movement in the Danube principalities, military actions and internal problems, while the author writes in passing about the echoes of these events on the international level, in Russia or the Ottoman Empire, to the extent that it is necessary for understanding the broader context. In that regard, with a precise and concrete account, the author covers all necessary aspects of the interplay between Russian and Ottoman politics regarding the events of 1821.

Dinu begins with a brief overview of the relations between Russia and the Ottoman Empire, as well as the position of the Greek people since the fall of Constantinople, citing the key events and turning points, such as the

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appointment of the Phanariots to the thrones of Bucharest and Iași, and the Treaty of Kuchuk-Kainarji. In the following, the author lists the ideas that inspired the Greek Revolution – primarily the French Revolution of 1789, as well as the Greek hope that Russia, which aspired to be the protector of the Christians in the Ottoman Empire, would provide military aid to free the Greeks from Turkish rule and restore the Byzantine Empire. Since the Treaty of Bucharest in 1812 and the move of Russia to the Danube, extensive preparations for mounting a revolution in Wallachia and Moldavia began, not so much pragmatic as idealistic in their nature, as the author shrewdly points out.

In addition to describing the founding of Filiki Eteria, its organization and the political beginnings of Alexander Ypsilantis, Dinu introduces the readers to the revolutionary preparations in Moldavia, whose ruler, Michael Soutzos, significantly helped the Eterists to organize their army and prepare the ground for future anti-Turkish actions. At the same time, preparations began in Wallachia too, with Ypsilantis's order to oust Alexandros Soutzos from the Wallachian throne because he remained loyal to the Ottomans, refusing to support the eterists. While the campaign to oust the Wallachian ruler was underway, Filiki Eteria made an agreement on cooperation with Tudor Vladimirescu, who had gained war experience and a good reputation during the Russo-Turkish war (1806-1812). Vladimirescu and the Eterists reached an agreement that, in the future uprising, both sides would work for the common good and that all the Balkan peoples would cooperate in the struggle for the liberation of the Balkans from the Turks. However, given that the Serbs and Bulgarians were not ready for a revolution, Ypsilantis's initial plan to raise the entire Balkan Peninsula to arms failed. He then decided to start the uprising in the Danube principalities (where he did not have enough troops and supporters), and from there, he planned to free from Ottoman rule one Balkan country at a time. Thus begins the trouble for Ypsilantis and his eterists. Ypsilantis persuaded the Moldavians to join his army in large numbers, claiming that Russian Emperor Alexander I would send his troops to

help the insurgents. However, shortly thereafter, a condemnation of the revolution and a refusal to provide any assistance to the eterists came from the Russian Emperor. Realizing that he did not have enough soldiers, Ypsilantis undertook an extensive recruitment campaign, promising ammunition, weapons, and monetary compensation after the liberation of Greece from Ottoman rule, thereby recruiting various hooligans into his army. In the following, the author vividly describes the numerous inconveniences that the population of Moldavia experienced from the eterist army. This demeanor of the army caused fear among the Romanian population and less and less sympathy for the liberation of the Greeks from Turkish rule. Dinu even quotes Romanian sources that claim that even the Turks were not as cruel to the locals.

On the other hand, the author also introduces the readers to the actions of Tudor Vladimirescu and his army. For the majority of Wallachians, the main problems were the arbitrariness of the boyars and high taxes, not the presence of the Turkish government. Their primary goal was not to overthrow the Ottoman government, but to improve their social position, which attracted a large number of Wallachians to Vladimirescu's side. Although the movements of Vladimirescu and Ypsilantis did not have the same priorities, initially, they persisted in their cooperation agreement. However, the failure to attract the Serbs and Bulgarians to their cause and the absence of Russian aid significantly limited their military and political successes in Wallachia and Moldavia. Knowing that he did not have enough troops to cross the Danube, Ypsilantis rejected the proposal of Mladen Milovanović, a veteran of the First Serbian Uprising, to start a rebellion in Bulgaria. Focusing on military actions against the Turks in Moldavia and Wallachia, Ypsilanti's distrust of Vladimirescu, who was gaining more and more popularity, was growing, and a rift between the two was inevitable. The conflict between Vladimirescu and Ypsilantis, as well as the preparations for the decisive battle against the Turks, represents the culmination of this monograph. The author, in an almost literary fashion, leads the readers to the outcome of the plot, dispelling myths

and legends about the battles of the eterists and Romanians against the Turks based on historical sources. The advance of the Turkish army into the Danube principalities and its banishment of the eterists were dynamically conveyed by the author, making the reader uneasy in anticipation of the outcome of these events. This is especially noticeable in the last chapter of the book, where the author describes how the rebels under the command of Mladen Milovanović, Iordache Olimpiotul, Iane Farmache and others used churches and monasteries as headquarters in their battles against the Turks after Ypsilantis escaped to the Austrian Empire.

The author enriched this book with his reconstruction of the route of Vladimirescu's and Ypsilantis's armies and photographs of more than 80 locations through which they passed, bringing the atmosphere of these events, which took place two centuries ago, closer to the readers. Dinu has painted colourful and three-dimensional portraits of not only Alexander Ypsilantis and Tudor Vladimirescu, the most famous participants of these events, but also other prominent individuals, such as Michael Soutzos, Iordache Olimpiotul, Gheorghe Cantacuzino, Sava Fochiano, etc. Dinu also manages to intertwine heroism, tragedy and, at times, humour, delivering a book that is well-researched and easy to follow.

PAUL MILLER-MELAMED, *MISFIRE: THE SARAJEVO ASSASSINATION AND THE WINDING ROAD TO WORLD WAR I*, NEW YORK: OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2022, 280 p.

Reviewed by John Zametica*

In the introduction to his book, Paul Miller-Melamed makes the point, almost casually, that the debate over the origins of the First World War "will never be settled." Quite. And this is not necessarily because the subject is so large, or because the available evidence is insufficient. Rather, given in retrospect the gravity of the events of 1914, and given also the tendency to conduct investigations into so-called "war guilt", no narrative can hold pre-eminence for very long when robustly challenged by a contrasting one. This is not a subject that can even remotely be done to death: historians can pull it every which way. But there is another matter to be considered here. Mingling with, and often overshadowing contesting scholarly interpretations, popular and textbook accounts have presented a series of straightforward explanations for the war of 1914, especially with respect to its immediate, ostensible source in the Balkans: "secret" nationalist societies, "fanatic" Serb terrorists, Balkan "powder keg", etc. The beauty of such brevity, writes

Miller-Melamed, "is that it is uncomplicated and reassuring, the very opposite of actual history." Trouble is, many scholars have themselves strayed onto this easy path of simplicity and clarity. Thus, a significant part of the historical narrative about 1914 is actually taken for granted.

The real story of 1914, according to Miller-Melamed, is "highly ironic and hopelessly unsettling." He makes the Sarajevo assassination the focal point of his relentless assault on the myriad of false but attractive constructs that are now part and parcel of the story regarding the outbreak of the war a few weeks later. This is what he calls the "Sarajevo myth", a myth that looms large over the twentieth century and reverberates universally.

"By what means and to what effect", he asks, "have Princip's pistol shots become so fabled in the first place?" He blasts the

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