

## REVIEWS

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In a world in which we don't seem to have much time left for culture or the study of history, I am happy to see that there are still authors who dedicate their time to approach with professionalism subjects of our past. Such is „Cercul puterii. Oameni, rețele, strategii (sec. XV-XVII)”, „The Circle of Power. People, networks, strategies (XV-XVII centuries), a volume of studies that was edited by Ramona Neacșa and published by Cetatea de Scaun Publishing House from Targoviste. The volume is a result of a national project financed by UEFISCDI, developed between 2018-2020. The eight authors who brought their contributions to this volume, without having the pretention of covering all the issues that may derive from an analysis of the history of power from the XV-XVII centuries, propose nevertheless a series of relevant case studies that are specific not only for the Wallachian space, but also for other Romanian or universal areas. Three of them are treating the political history of end XV – early XV century Wallachia (Liviu Marius Ilie, Ramona Neacșa, Irina Cîrstina), a fourth one approaches the relations between Michael the Brave and the Transylvanian nobility (Dorel Țuinea), other two put an accent upon some special destinies from the history of Transylvania (Livia Magina, Adrian Magina), another one proposes a layout about the decisional mechanisms of the Romanian medieval age (Ovidiu Cristea) while the contribution of the professor Ioan-Aurel Pop and Alexandru Simon insists on the manner in which the *geți* and the *daci* from Antiquity could be used, for different purposes, in the Renaissance intellectual duels.

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The texts of the volume subsume to a research direction, namely the political history seen as a history of power, which already has a well defined place in the Romanian historiography from the last decades. Thus, not the problematic is new in itself, but the case studies that the authors constructed around relatively new documents. Step by step we learn about the eschatological ideas and their impact upon the political reports in Wallachia, we are familiarized with Radu the Great's boyars and we understand the importance of the geographical repartition of the domains for the exercise of power, we see how a beginning of ruleship can determinate a renegotiation of the reactions between the boyars and the prince, we are witnesses at the secret advices that were defined by a historian as „kisses of death”, we can see the destines of Paul Kiniszi and Anei Jaksić, we understand the difficulties which Michael the Great confronted after conquering Transylvania and last, but not least, we can see the manner in which the past can be used to serve political interests of the present. Each author made a journey in the world of the medieval power on his own, guided only by the sources which inspired his research, by the method he considered suited and by the hope the his perspective will serve to some future researches.

It sure was not easy to put into the pages of the same volume these perspectives and is encouraging the fact that such volumes of studies are still a preoccupation for reseachers and professors, for the benefit of medieval history and generally for culture. I would strongly recommend the lecture of this volume not only for specialists, but for all youth. After all, he who does not know his history, cannot see his future.