



A Presentation About

România



Peleş Castle - XIX Century Royal Castle

România

Physical Map



Landmarks

1. Danube river (South)
2. Carpathians mountains (shape and position heavily influenced history)
3. Black Sea
4. Capital București (Bucharest)





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History - Antiquity



- **Dacia Kingdom (led by Decebal)** conquered by Rome (led by Emperor Trajanus) and made part of **Roman Empire**

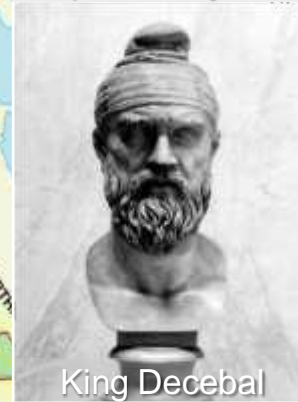
- **Dacians** natives and **Romans** colonizers formed **Romanians**

- **Trajan's Column in Rome**, Italy, built by Trajan, can be seen today and depicts images from the war

- **Romanian** is a **Latin** (Romance) language, just like Italian, French, Spanish, and Portuguese



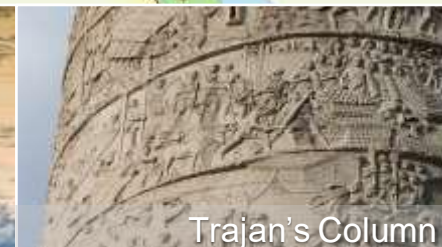
Emperor Trajanus



King Decebal



Bridge over Danube built by Apollodorus of Damascus



Trajan's Column in Rome



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History – Middle Ages



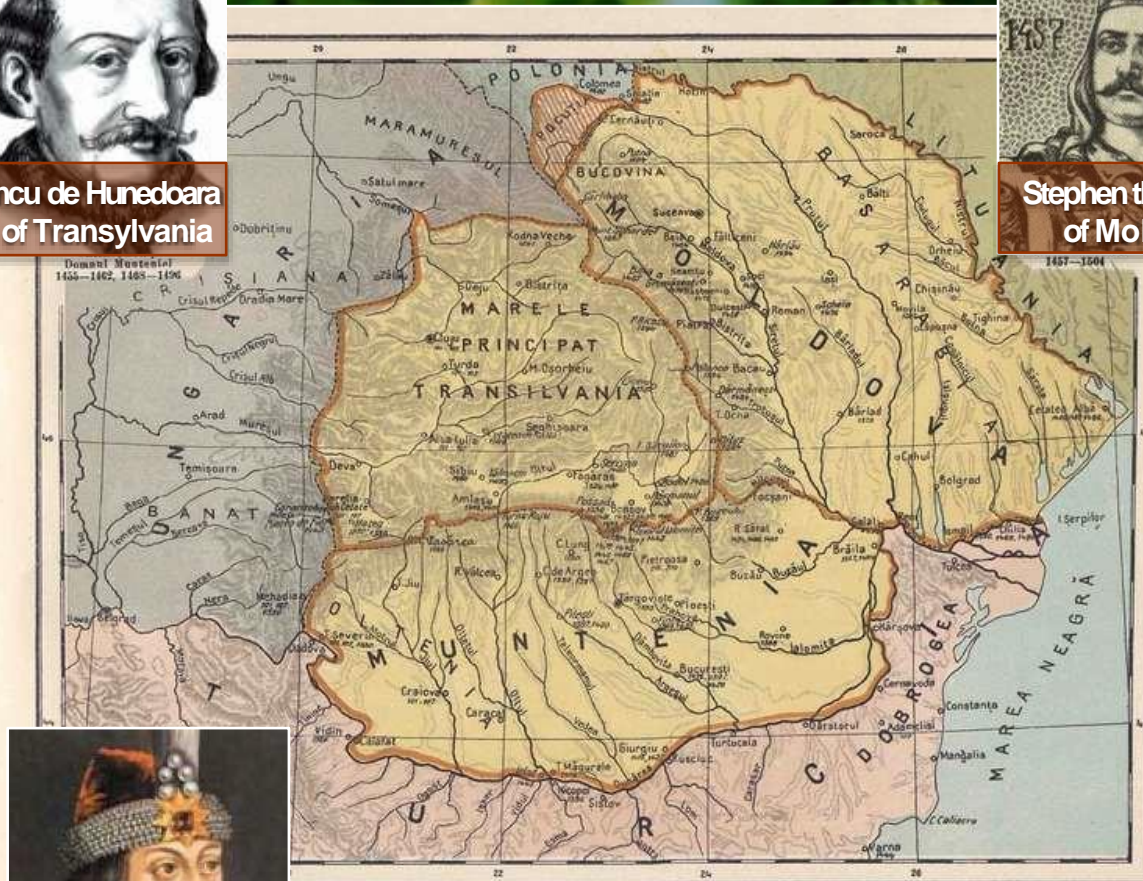
- 3 Kingdoms (Moldavia in East, Wallachia in South, Transylvania in West)
- Between Ottoman Empire, Austrian-Hungarian Empire, and Russian Empire
- Kings Stephen and Vlad both fought against the Ottomans



Iancu de Hunedoara
of Transylvania



Stephen the Great
of Moldavia



Vlad the Impeller
of Wallachia

Three Romanian kingdoms in 15th century

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History – XIX Century



- Alexandru Ioan Cuza forms personal union in 1859, creating the first modern Romanian state
- Introduces modern reforms (Secularization, Agrarian & Land, Civil Code, Education, Universal Man Suffrage, Standing Army, etc.)
- Cuza is authoritarian, forced to abdicated; Romanian elite select a German noble to establish a royal family (**Carol I de Hohenzollern**)
- Carol I lead and wins the 1877 Independence War Ottoman Empire, proclaims **Kingdom of Romania**



Alexandru Cuza



Proclamation of Union (1859)



Independence War (1877)



King Carol I



Industrialization

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History – After World War I



- Carol I's son, King Ferdinand I, leads Romania in WWI with Allies (Entente Cordiale)
- Romanians in Transylvania proclaim the Great Union with Romania (1918)
- Romanian Army conquers back Transylvania from imploding Habsburg Empire
- The resulting Kingdom of Greater Romania confirmed by Trianon (Paris) Peace Treaty (1920)



Proclamation of Great Union



Romanian Army in Budapest



King Ferdinand I

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History – During World War II



- Nazi Germany and USSR partition Eastern Europe in 1939-40. **Soviets annex eastern Moldavia**, Hungary occupies Northern Transylvania
- Allies are powerless (France conquered, UK isolated), neutrality not an option
- Between two evils, Romania chose to **fight bolsheviks** alongside Germany

Soviet territorial annexations: Romania



Before June 28, 1940



August 2, 1940



After 1945

At the end of the WWII, Romania:

- 1) Lost Eastern Moldova to USSR, and
- 2) Was occupied by the Red Army and forced to embrace communism for the next half century



City of Iași bombed by soviets; Red Army soldiers occupying Romania

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History – After World War II



WWII

- Towards end of war, Romania switches sides to Allies; Eastern Moldavia lost back to USSR, but conquers Transylvania back again
- Falls under soviet and bolshevik occupation; Soviets pillaged the country savagely; mass rapes & deportations

After WWII: Forced communism

- Elites (capitalists, land owners, upper middle class) imprisoned and executed, or (few) exiled; King Michael I abdicated and exiled
- Properties (land, real estate, industrial, cash) confiscated, even small land from peasants
- 45 years of oppression, dictatorship, and isolation



Eastern Europe behind the Iron Curtain
(USSR and occupied states)

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History: Communism (1945-1989)



- Based on **very austere** life, only very basics covered very poorly: **electricity rolling blackouts, rationalization of food and gasoline**, one TV channel (only propaganda)



Daily commute



Line for food rations



Line for heating gas



Palace "of the People"



Bucharest street view (1960's)

- **Severe political oppression** by feared Security Police ("Securitate"), **no free speech, propaganda and cult of personality** (epoch claimed as "Golden Age")



Ceausescu and forced "support" rallies



Cult of personality at large scale (stadium show)

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Revolution Against Communism (1989)

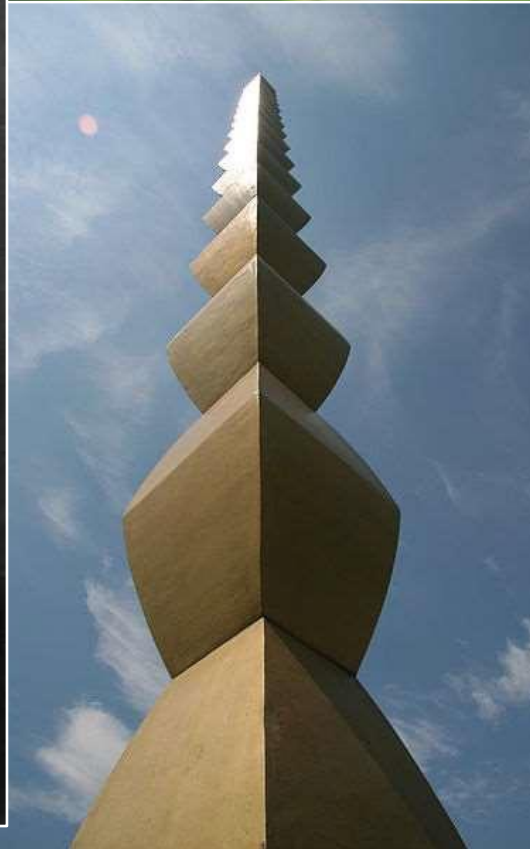
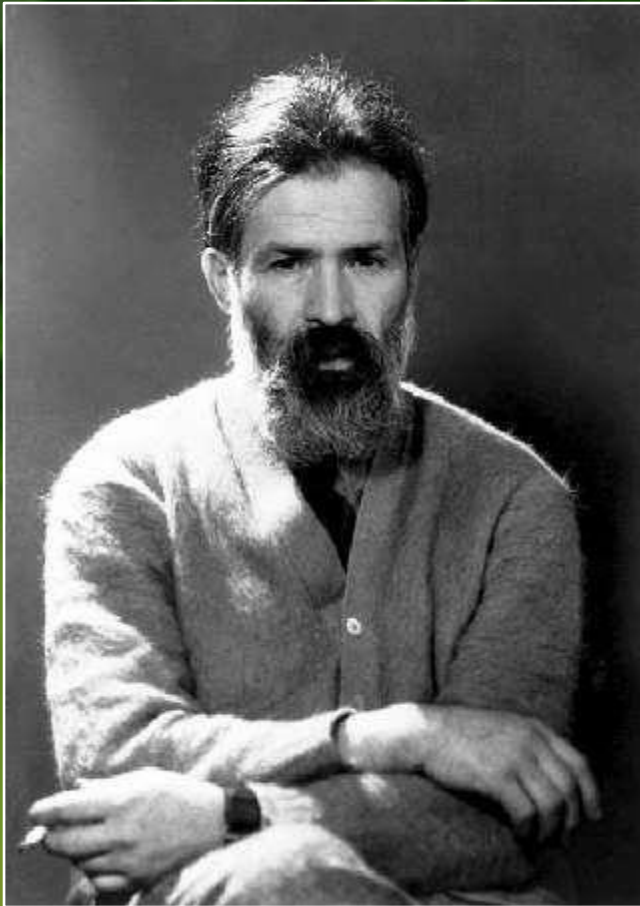


Fighting and Dying for Freedom against Communism

More than 1,100 heroes – *Rest in Peace!*

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Famous Romanians

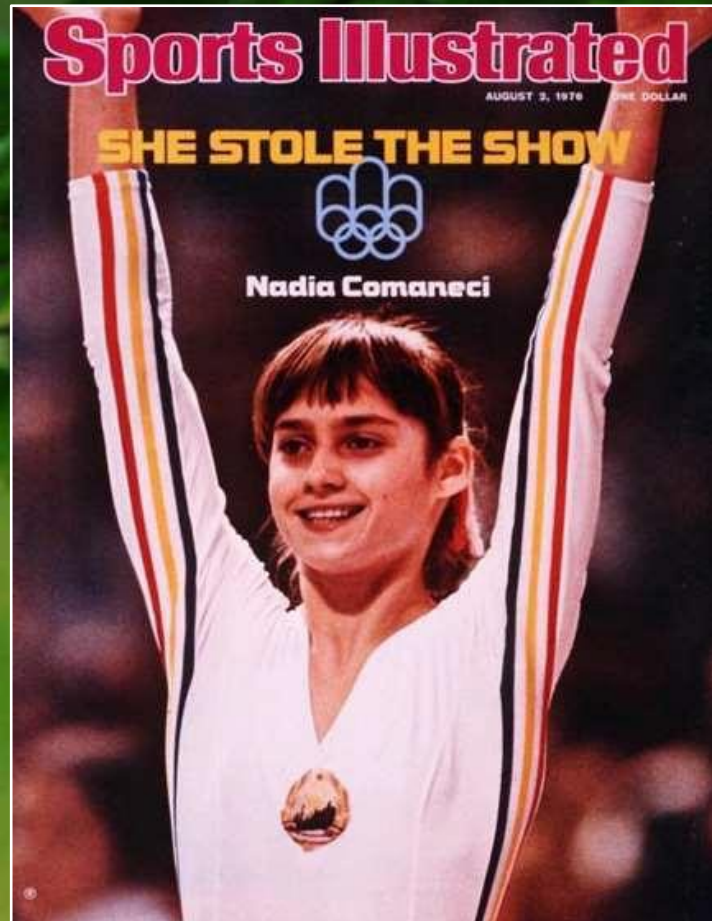


Constantin Brâncuși (1876 – 1957)

Sculptor; his abstract style emphasizes clean geometrical lines that balance forms inherent in his materials with the symbolic allusions of representational art

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Famous Romanians



Nadia Comăneci (born 1961) – 1st Perfect “10”

Winner of three Olympic gold medals at the 1976 Summer Olympics in Montreal and the first female gymnast ever to be awarded a perfect score of 10 in an Olympic gymnastic event

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Famous Romanians



© Alamy

Bran Castle

Vlad III, Prince of Wallachia (1431–1476)

Known as Vlad the Impeller was the basis of the fictional character Dracula in Bram Stoker's famous novel

Suceava



Do not look for Bucovina on the map, but instead for Suceava County from northeast Romania. Its historical name, Bucovina, started being used after 1775 when the province became part of the Habsburg Empire. The new rulers wanted to create a distinct identity from Moldavia, the region it belonged to in the past.



Top things to do in our region

Visit the painted churches

The painted churches are the main reason most people visit Bucovina. Dating from the 15th and 16th centuries, these landmarks are testimony of the importance of the Orthodox Church in medieval times. Eight of them were included on the UNESCO Heritage List for the unique Byzantine-style frescoes that cover their walls. From Genesis and the Last Judgment to scenes from the battle of Constantinople, these state of art frescoes amaze even today.



Imaginea nu se poate afișa. Este posibil ca conținutul să nu aibă memorie suficientă pentru a descărca imaginea sau că imaginea să fi fost deformată. Reîncercă conținutul, apoi decideți-vă din nou înainte. Dacă încă mai apare și în continuare, poți să încerci să descarci imaginea și să o reîncerci din nou.



Discover more historical and cultural attractions

If you're keen on discovering more landmarks when you visit Bucovina, add the 14th-century **fortress of Suceava** to your list. This is one of the few medieval defensive sites that still exist in this part of Romania. The scene of Ottoman attacks and sieges hundreds of years ago, the fortress is today a great attraction for families

Visit also the open-air [Bucovina Village Museum](#) and discover the traditional rural architecture. Sadly, only a few of the villages from the region conserve today their ancestral features.



Meet the local artisans

It goes without saying that the skills and talent of local artisans are part of Bucovina's rich cultural heritage. One of its most famous traditions, [painting eggs](#), has become an art that goes beyond the Easter celebration.

Bucovina is also famous for its tapestries as sewing and weaving were once major occupations of local women. You'll find many traditional blouses, carpets, and embroideries in the souvenir shops. But take a closer look to differentiate original handcrafts from fakes.



©Diana Condrea



1. Beans soup with smoked pork.
2. Traditional Romanian cheeses and cured meats
3. Eggplant cream
4. Stuffed roasted pork stew
5. Cabbage rolls
6. Porcini mushrooms with polenta