

The Parliamentary Elite of the Romanian National Party (1919-1926)

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Abstract: *The purpose of this study is to research the social structure of the Romanian National Party's parliamentary elite which was elected on the first parliamentary elections from Great Romania: 1919, 1920, 1922 and 1926. The unification of Transylvania, Bukovina and Bessarabia with Romania had as an immediate consequence the reunification of the party system with the political formations that activated in these provinces: the Romanian National Party, the Social Democrat Party, the Democrat Party of Unification and the Peasant's Party from Bessarabia. Among these, the National Party was, no doubt, the strongest, because it was the only one present on the Romanian political stage for a longer time.*

Regarding the social structure of the party, the specific historical circumstances in which the R.N.P. developed offered it a very heterogeneous physiognomy which included the representatives of all social ranks of the population, starting with peasantry and ending with bourgeoisies. Its leaders belonged to the richest and middle ranks of society, without including any peasant, thus its economic interests being similar with those of the National Liberal Party. Still, from this point of view, the R.N.P. had a wider social foundation than the National Liberal Party. The greatest part of the Romanian National Party parliamentarians, both deputies and senators, – the elite of this party – were lawyers, followed by priests and teachers (see table 3). These three social categories were representative for the party within the period we studied.

The purpose of this study is to research the social structure of the Romanian National Party's parliamentary elite which was elected on the first parliamentary elections from Great Romania: 1919, 1920, 1922 and 1926. The studies dedicated to the socio-professional structure of the parliamentary elites from interwar Romania are only at the beginning, the Romanian historiography being deprived of important achievements in this way so far.¹

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¹ We remember the following contributions: Hans-Christian Maner, *Parlamentarismul în România (1930–1940). Democrație în autorităren Umfeld* (München, 1997); Romanian edition: *Parlamentarismul în România 1930-1940* (București: Editura Enciclopedică, 2004) – especially the subchapter *Compoziția socială a Parlamentului 1934-1937*: 207-212. It's also very important the study from this volume signed by Hans-Christian Maner, "Romania's Parliament in the Interwar Period. Bases, Social Composition and Aspects of Political Culture"; Florin Müller (ed.), *Elite parlamentare și dinamică electorală în România 1919-1937*, (București: Editura Universității din București, 2009 – work on which we expressed our critical opinions in a send off published in *Analele Științifice ale Universității «Alexandru Ioan Cuza» din Iași, Seria Istorie*, LIV-LV (2008-2009): 479-489. Regarding the research about the national Romanian political elites from Transylvania from the end of the XIXth century and the beginning of the XXth century we remember the very important contributions of Vlad Popovici: *Studies on the Romanian Political Elite from Transylvania*