Memorial Tourism and the History Textbook – Solutions for Solving the Memory Equation

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Abstract: *The weight that memory holds within contemporary intellectual efforts undertaken on the socio-cultural realm reflects the need to find the balance between "conviction through memory" and "healing through truth", reveals current priorities and is an expression of the expectations horizon for those who perceive it as a constant in a world of rapid changes and loss of identity. This paper proposes a "reading" of memory through memorial tourism and through the history textbook, respectively.*

Memorial tourism provides history with an opportunity to be narrated by symbolic spaces – places of memory. They are more than artistic manifestos: they are history messengers installed in contemporary times. The history textbook revolves around the words of Aristotle "learning means remembering" and presents memory turned into history, contributes to the formation of genuine axiological consciousnesses and behaviours, the creation of citizens who show willingness to become involved in the life of the city, who can and want to give a positive meaning to their presence in the world, attempts to trigger - as emphasized by Mihaela Grancea - "long term" beneficial feelings and attitudes. It can be considered to be one of the colours of hope.

Among the demarches developed in the realm of muse Clio we notice the one aimed at deciphering the memory equation, identifying the optimum ratio between memory fidelity and historical truth, but also the avoidance – as requested by Paul Ricoeur – of both the deficiency as well as the surplus of memory (not too much memory in one place and too much forgetfulness in another).

Of the specific terminology arsenal in the field of memory, noteworthy is the concept of "places of memory" – theorized by Pierre Nora – which stands for a mix of emotions, information and identities, equivalent to a "milestone in becoming" (Ovidiu Pecican), this is the recommended antidote for cases of individual or collective amnesia.

It is the "software"[2] by means of which individuals and communities operate. Its double position - reminder and warning – turns it also into a message bearer, a

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