

"Babes-Bolyai" University of Cluj-Napoca  
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Phd Thesis Summary

THE ROMANIAN-ITALIAN POLITICAL-ECONOMIC  
RELATIONS IN THE FOURTH DECADE OF THE  
TWENTIETH CENTURY

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## Content

### 1. Introduction

### 2. Political Relations Romanian - Italian in the first half of the fourth decade of the twentieth century

#### 2.1. Romania and Italo - Ethiopian conflict

#### 2.2. Romania and Italy during the conflict

#### 2.3. Romania and the League of Nations

### 3. Political Relations Romanian - Italian in the period 1937-1940

#### 3.1. Italy and the dismemberment of Romania in the summer of 1940

##### 3.1.1. Italy and the issue of Basarabia

##### 3.1.2. Italy and "arbitration" from Vienna, August 30, 1940

##### 3.1.3. Italy and the bulgarian revisionism

### 4. Romanian - Italian economic relations in the period 1930-1934

#### 4.1. General aspects of the economic context of the fourth decade of the twentieth century

#### 4.2. Romanian-Italian economic relations in the economic crisis

#### 4.3. Treaty of commerce and navigation, and Sanitary Convention between Romania and Italy

#### 4.4. Additional Agreement to the Treaty of Commerce and Navigation

#### 4.5. Financial and Payment Issues

#### 4.6. Italian - Romanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, from Genoa

## 5. Romanian- Italy economic relations between 1934 - 1940

5.1. Treaty of Commerce and Navigation between Romania and Italy, January 5, 1934

5.2. Payment Agreement between Romania and Italy

5.3. Azienda Petroli Italo - Romena

5.4. Romanian- Italian economic relations between 1934 - 1937

5.5. Payment Agreement between Romania and Italy 1938

5.6. The first session of the Joint Commission Italian - Romanian from 19 to 29 June 1939

5.7. The second session of the Joint Commission Italian - Romanian from November 16 to December 21, 1939

5.8. The third session of the Joint Commission Italian - Romanian from February 26 to March 30, 1940

5.9. The fourth session of the Joint Commission Italian - Romanian from 12 to 27 August 1940

## 6. Conclusions

Bibliography

Attachments

Keywords: Romanian-Italian relations, trade treaties, autarchy, quota, Benito Mussolini, Ion Lugoșianu.

## Summary:

This paper, entitled The Romanian-Italian political-economic relations in the fourth decade of the twentieth century, approaches bilateral relations with emphasis on the economic aspect. The historiography of the problem is rich<sup>1</sup>. However, the Romanian-Italian relations are not yet known in all aspects, especially being analyzed political and diplomatic relations, military and cultural, and the presence in the interwar Romanian economy of the Italian capital.

Our thesis, emphasizes the economic aspect of Romanian-Italian relations in the 30's, given that such an approach has not been yet made of this problem in the economic Romanian historiography up to date, enrolling as research in the field of economic history.

Sources used to address this issue are primarily archival sources which - in some chapters - are prevalent, adding to it memoirs, press time and what was written on this mater.

Our thesis is intended to be such a contribution to a better understanding of Romanian-Italian relations in the interwar period, in all their aspects. Therefore, this thesis is divided into six chapters.

In the first chapter, introduction, we highlighted the sources and methodology, which aims; economic approach that focuses on wording positivist and statistics on the importance of Romanian-Italian relations in the second decade of the interwar period.

The second chapter, political relations between Romania and Italy in the first half of the fourth decade of the twentieth century, made an incursion in the evolution of Romanian-Italian policy until the end of the Italo-Ethiopian conflict.

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<sup>1</sup> V.Fl. Dobrinescu, I. Pătroiu, Gh.Nicolescu, *Relații politico-diplomatice și militare româno-italiene(1914-1947)*, Craiova, Intact, 1999; Renzo De Felice, *Mussolini Il Duce*, Torino, Giulio Einaudi, 1974; Anca Stângaciu, *Capitalul italian în economia românească între anii 1919-1939*, Cluj-Napoca, Fundația pentru studii europene, 2004; Carmen Burcea, *Diplomație și cultură. Prezențe românești în Italia interbelică*, București, Institutul Cultural Român, 2005; Nicoleta Epure, *Relații româno-italiene 1933-1943*, teză de doctorat, Univeristatea București, 2010; Lilian Zamfiroiu, *Relații diplomatice româno-italiene între anii 1918-1940*, teză de doctorat, Universitatea Oradea, 2010, Florina Sorescu, *Relații politico-diplomatice româno-italiene în perioada anilor 30*, teză de doctorat, Universitatea Valahia Târgoviște, 2011.

This relations were scored as problematic extension Italo-Romanian friendship pact in 1926 and Romania's attitude towards Italian political projects, aimed at asserting it as a great European power, which rallied and Little Entente countries.

The failure of the "Covenant of the four" causes Benito Mussolini to pay attention to Italy's relations with the Danube basin, first with Austria and Hungary, ending the "Protocols of Rome" which managed to prevent these two countries get close to Germany, knowing that, in a future Italian-German competition in the region, it would place a secondary place. It became so in this context, bipolarism Italian foreign policy between Germany that supported the reannexation of Rhenania and France to prevent the Anschluss.

In the middle of the fourth decade of the twentieth century, the Romanian-Italian tensions reached a high level as a result of Romania's positioning of conflict, but also the repeated provocative speeches uttered by Benito Mussolini in which he openly demanded revision of the treaties.

Therefore, the Italian attitude towards Romania in major international issues, especially in the conflict with Ethiopia, was about the personality of Nicolae Titulescu, its removal from the Ministry of Foreign causing satisfaction in Italian government circles and public opinion being interpreted as signal a new direction in romanian foreign policy.

The third chapter, Romanian and Italian political relations between 1937-1940, dealing with the change in attitude of the Italian policy towards South East Europe, and thus Romania, with the establishment of the Berlin-Rome Axis. But Italy's attempts to become a factor in international relations in this period were undermined by her lack of reaction to the Anschluss and indifference to German-Czechoslovak tension.

Nearby attempts coming from Romania were hit by conditioning prior agreement between the Romanian and Hungarian expressed by the phrase constantly repeated by Galeazzo Ciano "road to Rome

through Budapest" and trying to undermine the Little Entente through Yugoslavia.

Dual attitude of Italy in relation to Bucharest and Budapest and secondary position in Axis, becomes evident in the summer of 1940 when her complicity dismantling of Romania was the most painful and unexpected, since at August 27, 1940, it signed a new Romanian-Italian economic agreement in an open and cordial frame.

The fourth chapter, Romanian-Italian relations during 1930-1934, introduced into scientific circulation unpublished archival information on bilateral economic relations, which will be conditioned by the profound global economic crisis.

This caused a temporary interruption of the upward evolution of economic life, ending hopes of a return to a liberal economic policies, by increasing state role in the economy, through interventionist policy and the trend towards autarchying of the most states.

Protectionist measures took the form of trade settlement currency, the quota imports and foreign trade regulations set to boost exports to countries with which the balance of trade was deficient.

In this general context, to put the Treaty of Commerce and Navigation between Romania and Italy, signed in Rome on February 25, 1930. His signing was part of peasant government trade policy, aimed at reintroducing Romania international trade circuit and conclude this purpose a new system of trade agreements. This treaty brings Romania an important position in the Italian market after U.S. oil supplies and U.R.S.S. Romania also provide outlets for its corn and oats, but not of wheat.

Dubbed the Additional Agreement Treaty resulted in a positive trade balance due on the one hand big oil and grain exports, and on the other by an appreciable reduction in imports of textiles. Although they did not succeed and a gathering of political relations, due to political reluctance of Romania to the Italian policy in the Danubian-Balkan region.

All of the efforts made to boost bilateral economic relations and the recognition and funding joined the Chamber of Commerce Italian-Romanian from Genoa.

Romanian-Italian relations in the years 1934-1940, are the subject of the fifth chapter of the thesis. The period was marked by economic recovery trends through a complex protectionist measures that will improve the trade balance by controlling the import and export stimulation.

A first step will be done by signing the Treaty of Commerce and Navigation between Romania and Italy on January 5, 1934 (after long and difficult negotiations commenced on November 6, 1933, especially in terms of volumes of corn and oil), at Palazzo Venezia by Italian Prime Minister Benito Mussolini and the romanian ministry at Rome, Ion Lugoşianu.

In Italy, the Trade Treaty was regarded as having a political significance in that it was also maintained link between the two countries, with the end of 1926 friendship pact that Benito Mussolini considered can not be extended.

Through a special Protocol, Romania and Italy pledged to not maintain or introduce any restriction on imports and exports except those absolutely necessary, and for the development of trade, governments have pledged to form an Italian-Romanian Joint Commission , to find ways to promote mutual economic interests.

The Economic Treaty on 5 January 1934 was accompanied by the payment agreement between Romania and Italy on 27 August 1934 in order to boost trade in goods between the two countries and trade relations within the limits which will allow the absorption capacity of the consumer organizing Italian and Romanian exporters and normal operation of the system of payments between the two countries.

An important part of Romanian-Italian relations in this period was a Romanian oil. Following the initiative of Credit Minier (Anonymous Society Romanian Mining Industry Development) will be established in 1934, a subsidiary in Italy Azienda Petroli Italo-Romena in Rome, justify by the italian oil imports from Romania.

During 1934-1937, the Romanian-Italian relations both state into regulating trade in currencies, import quotas system and other measures taken by all countries after the economic crisis and the implementation of economic sanctions imposed by the League of Nations against Italy as following the invasion of Ethiopia.

As a result of bilateral negotiations on February 13, 1937, signed in Rome by the Minister of Romania Ion Lugoșianu and Italian Foreign Minister Galeazzo Ciano, payment arrangement implemented jointly by the National Bank of Romania and L'Instituto per i Cambi con l'estero.

Significant Romanian-Italian trade during 1934-1937 is that Italy is ranked sixth in the volume of trade with Romania and the fifth as a percentage value.

Economic and political transformations at European level in 1938, influenced the Romanian-Italian economic relations, leading to the signing of a new agreement for payment on December 3, 1938 doubled by the Trade Agreement, the Additional Protocol No. 2 to the Treaty of Commerce and Navigation from January 5, 1934, as well as a Protocol and an end Statement.

The signing of these agreements in Bucharest and not Rome, shows the importance attached to Romania in Italian economic policy, although political relations were far from cordial.

In the years 1939-1940, the Romanian-Italian relations formed under the auspices of the international political situation of the worst, they are governed by the four sessions of the Italo-Romanian Joint Commission from June 19 to 29, 1939, November 16-December 21, 1939, February 26-March 30, 1940 and August 12 to 27, 1940.

After a decade of economic relations with Italy, the trade balance has been active, as a result of the structure of complementarity and mutually beneficial conditions and of payment treaties and agreements signed with Italy.

Concluding, we can say that the evolution of political and economic relations between Romania and Italy in the fourth decade of the twentieth century was dependent on political and economic objectives, often diverging of the two states. Also, in Romania's relations with Italy,



there are a number of uncertainties related to bilateral economic relations third decade of the twentieth century. Only after analyzing their final conclusions can be highlighted complexes Romanian-Italian relations in the interwar period.