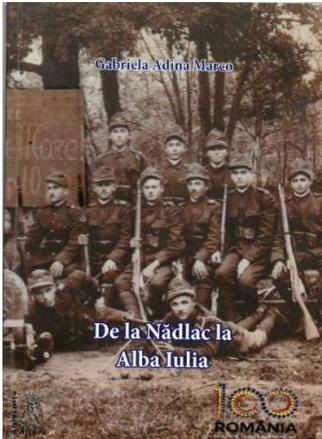


Gabriela Adina Marco, *De la Nădlac la Alba-Iulia. Implicarea nădlăcenilor în mișcarea națională românească (1867-1918)* [From Nădlac to Alba-Iulia. How the People of Nădlac Became Involved in the Romanian National Movement (1867-1918)], (Arad: Tiparnița), 2018, 223p.

Emanuela-Andreea Trifan*



The 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War and that of the Day of the Great Union brought to the researchers' attention the need for a thorough analysis/review of the events that marked Romanian society and made possible the territorial unification of all the Romanian historical provinces in 1918. In the last years, there have been published numerous books and articles dedicated to the Great Union Day. Among those interested in Romanian national history is also Gabriela Adina Marco, who authored the book *De la Nădlac la Alba-Iulia. Implicarea nădlăcenilor în mișcarea națională românească (1867-1918)* [From Nădlac to Alba-Iulia. How the People of Nădlac Became Involved in the Romanian National Movement (1867-1918)]. This work captures the evolution of the community of Nădlac from the beginning of the Dualist period to the Great Union Day, and focuses on its involvement in the national movement.

This book is in fact a monograph that depicts both the historiography pertaining to Arad and to Transylvania. The title is very accurate and does not leave any room for interpretation. From a temporal point of view, the study covers a long period, from 1867 to 1918, and discusses the evolution of

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the community of Nădlac at several levels. The author managed to approach a wide area of research in the twelve chapters that focus on the struggle for the national identity of the Transylvanian Romanians. This approach is pointed out from the beginning by the motto of the book "The day of December 1, 1918 is <<the foundation day of Greater Romania>>", Andrei Magieru, bishop of Arad.

The work is unique, for it is based on substantial documents from the Archive of the Orthodox Parish of Nădlac and the Arad County Service of the National Archives. The author uses numerous types of inedit documents comprising manuscripts, memoirs, and last but not least the local press relating to this topic. The text is written in an objective manner and is easy to read even for those unfamiliar with this issue.

The book begins with a series of introductory considerations, and in the first two chapters, the reader is familiarized in a succinct way with the historical, geographical, and demographic framework of the Nădlac area between 1910 and 1920.

In the third chapter, the author depicts the evolution of the local Church and the School between 1802 and 1918. She pays equal attention to all existing religions, namely of the Orthodox Romanians, Serbs, Evangelical Slovaks, as well as the Greek-Catholic and Roman-Catholic communities.

The author manages to bring to the reader's attention, in a detailed manner, the identity landmarks of Nădlac as part of the cultural and political area of Transylvania. She talks about the activity of priests and teachers, who carried out their activity in Nădlac, and also about the ordinary people, who contributed to the community; in this respect, special attention is dedicated to Professor Atanasie Șandor.

The following chapters focus on the activity of the societies and the economic and cultural associations in Nădlac, as well as that of the press or

publications of Arad. The author uses solid documentation, as revealed by the numerous works cited in the footnotes. Among them are the articles of Nicolae Roșuț *Atanasie Șandor (1808- 1982)*, as well as Mircea Popa, *Atanasie Șandor (1809-1892)*, Mircea Popa, *De la Iluminism la pașoptism/From the Enlightenment to the Spring of People*, Cluj-Napoca, Argonaut Publishing House, 2004.

Particular attention is paid in the following chapters to the events leading to the Great Union Day as well as the First World War. The author presents in a summary the Hungarian school legislation from the period of Austro-Hungarian Dualism and emphasizes the adverse consequences resulting from the education law of 1907. These problems are known to be generally valid for the entire Romanian community in Transylvania. Such references can be found also in the book written by Daniel Sularea, *Școală și societate învoățământul elementar confesional în episcopia greco-catolică de Gherla: (1867-1918)/School and Society: Elementary Confessional Education in the Greek Catholic Diocese of Gherla: (1867-1918)*, Cluj Napoca, 2006.

In the unpublished documents, the author identifies the image of the "good emperor" in the community of Nădlac. The myth of the "good emperor" has been debated in recent years in numerous studies. One of the most recent works is that of Alexandru Bud, *Limitele loialității dinastice: Iosif al II-lea și românii din Transilvania în epoca modernă/Limits of Dynastic Loyalty: Joseph II and the Romanians from Transylvania in the Modern Era*, published in 2015. Regarding the daily life of the inhabitants of Nădlac during the Great War, the author found the same issues that have been discussed by other researchers in this field. The book of Eugenia Bârlea on *Perspectiva lumii rurale asupra Primului Război Mondial/Perspective of the Rural World on the First World War* as well as that of Ioana-Elena Ignat *Mobilizare și participare în Transilvania în Primul Război Mondial /Mobilization and Participation in Transylvania in the*

First World War, outline the same aspects, i.e. issues related to conscriptions and the war supporting effort made by those left behind at home. Eloquent examples for such effort are the requirements addressed to students to collect medicinal plants for supplying medical units or the orders concerning donations and collections for the soldiers. Another issue highlighted and encountered in most of the studies pertaining to the home front is the issue of donating church bells for supporting the army. This was probably one of the most dramatic situations for the patriarchal society and the faithful, especially in the rural regions.

The last chapters describe in detail the involvement and participation of the inhabitants of Nădlac to the events leading to Great Union and the organization of the delegations that participated on the Liberty Field (Câmpia Libertății) in Blaj in 1918, of the National Guard and the Central Romanian National Council. In the end of the book, the author describes the new administrative changes after December 1, 1918, and also collects the works of memorialists as well as the *memoirs* that appear in the volume edited by the Bistrița-Năsăud County Archive Service, *Anul 1918 în Județul Bistrița-Năsăud. Contribuții documentare/The Year 1918 in the Bistrița-Năsăud County. Documentary Contributions*.

The subject could have been treated in a wider context, one in which territorial barriers are surpassed due to research work at international level. At the same time, for better highlighting the events that influenced the destiny of the community of Nădlac, it would have been useful to review a slightly larger bibliography concerning the Romanian research works referring to the Transylvanian area. This kind of research started to develop a few years ago, and it has been following the evolution of the Romanian communities during the First World War and the Great Union Day. This book impresses with the diversity of information provided on the evolution of

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Nădlac and is recommended to readers who are interested in the evolution of communities during the period of the Austro-Hungarian Dualism.