



Romania in 1918-1923

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Politic point:

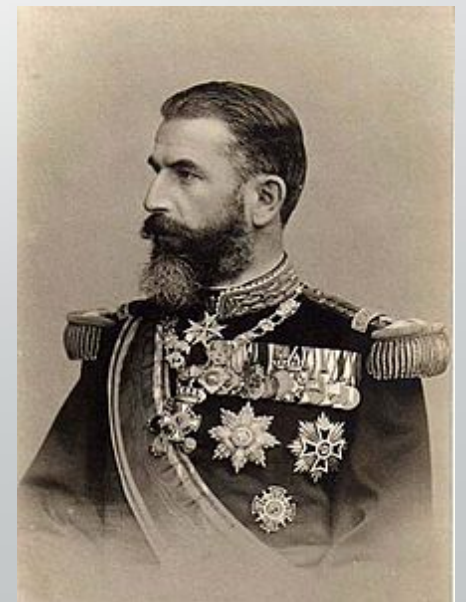
From 1918 to 1938, Romania was a liberal constitutional monarchy, but one facing the rise of the nationalist. From 1938 to 1944, Romania was a dictatorship. The first dictator was King Carol II.

Carol was the eldest son of Ferdinand I and became crown prince upon the death of his grand-uncle, King Carol I in 1914. He was the first of the Hohenzollern kings of Romania to be born in the country (both of his predecessors were born and grew up in Germany and only came to Romania as adults). Carol, by contrast, spoke Romanian as his first language and was the first member of the Romanian royal family to be raised in the Orthodox faith.



Carol was born in Peleş Castle and grew up under the thumb of his dominating grand-uncle King Carol I, who largely excluded his parents, the German-born Crown Prince Ferdinand and the British-born Crown Princess Marie from any role in bringing him up.

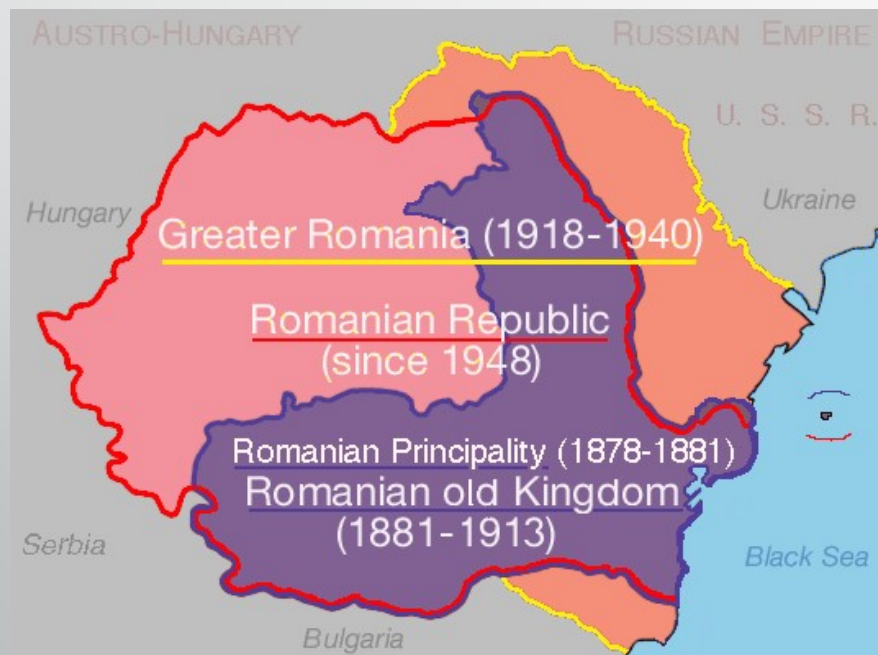
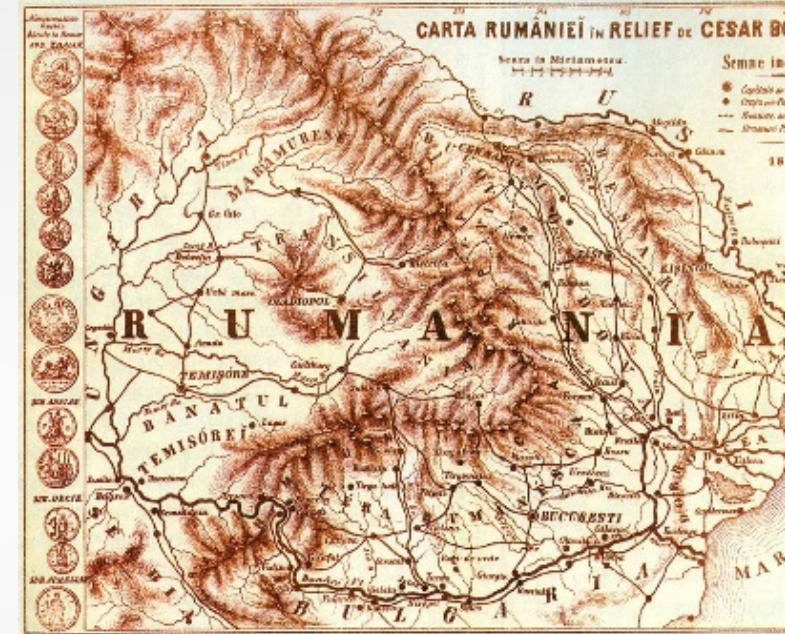
King Ferdinand died in 1927 and Carol's five-year-old son ascended the throne as Michael I. Carol then returned to Romania in 1930 and replaced his son and the regency that had been in place.



The Romanian expression *România Mare* (literal translation "Great Romania", but more commonly rendered "Greater Romania") generally refers to the Romanian state in the interwar period, and by extension (almost 300,000 km²). In 1918, at the end of World War I, Transylvania and Bessarabia united with the Romanian Old Kingdom. The union of the regions of Transylvania, Maramureș, Crișana and Banat with the Old Kingdom of Romania was ratified in 1920 by the Treaty of Trianon.



The union of Michael the Brave, who ruled over the three principalities with Romanian population (Wallachia, Transylvania and Moldavia) for a short period of time, was viewed in later periods as the precursor of a modern Romania, a thesis which was argued with noted intensity by Nicolae Bălcescu. The Romanian revolution in 1848 already carried the seeds of the national dream of a unified and united Romania, though the "idea of unification" had been known from earlier works of Naum Ramniceanu (1802) and Ion Budai-Deleanu (1804).



The concept of "Greater Romania" materialized as a geopolitical reality after the First World War. Romania gained control over Bessarabia, Bukovina and Transylvania.

Economic point:

After the Great Union of 1918 Romania had a very high economic potential due to the new territories acquired after the end of the First World War.



Because of these territories, certain branches of the economy have grown greatly (as a potential) towards the post-war period as follows:

- agricultural area increased from 6.5 million hectares to about 14.5 million
- the forest fund has grown from 2.6 million hectares to 7.4 million hectares
- the rail network has increased by more than 250% from 4200 km to 11000 km
- the power of certain industries has increased by up to 400% (chemical, electrical).

A reform that has been long awaited by the peasantry is the agrarian reform of 1921. This involved the 66% expropriation of land belonging to landowners and the appropriation of about 1, 4 million peasants, benefiting first of all: mobilizations, war widows, peasants with an area of less than 5 hectares and landless. The 1921 agrarian reform constituted, with all its shortcomings, a significant progressive step in the development of the state.

