



ROMANIA IN 1989

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In 1981 Ceaușescu began an austerity programme designed to enable Romania to liquidate its entire national debt. To achieve this, many basic goods—including gas, heat and food—were rationed, which drastically reduced the standard of living and increased malnutrition. The infant mortality rate also grew to be the highest in Europe.

Infant Mortality Rates in selected countries 1970-1989
Source: World Bank, World Facts (1992)

Country	1970	1975	1980	1985	1989	Change 1970-1989
Bulgaria	27.3	23.1	20.2	15.4	13.7	50%
Czechoslovakia	22.1	20.8	18.4	14.0	12.4	56%
Hungary	35.9	32.8	23.1	20.4	16.0	45%
Poland	33.2	24.8	21.2	18.4	16.7	50%
Romania	49.4	34.6	29.3	25.6	23.6	48%
Yugoslavia	55.5	39.7	31.4	28.8	23.6	43%
United States	20.0	16.1	12.6	10.5	9.8	49%



The Romanian Revolution was a period of violent civil unrest in the Socialist Republic of Romania in December 1989 and part of the Revolutions of 1989 that occurred in several countries. It happened between 16 and 25 December 1989, which led to the fall of the dictator Nicolae Ceausescu and the end of the communist regime in Romania.

The wider demonstrations culminated in the trial and execution of the Ceausescu spouses.

After Ceaușescu left, the crowds in Palace Square entered a celebratory mood, perhaps even more intense than in the other former Eastern Bloc countries because of the recent violence.



After the fall of communism in 1989, there was an almost immediate explosion of publication of books previously censored by the regime. Books were published in huge numbers per edition, sales were high, and a great number of publishing houses appeared. Many new young writers appeared.

Radu Cosașu is one of Romania's most highly regarded writers. Between 1973 and 1989 he published a six volume cycle of novels entitled *Survivals*

