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**CZERNOWITZ TOWN AND ITS NATIONAL, POLITICAL
AND CULTURAL IMPORTANCE FOR THE ROMANIANS**
(Summary)

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The present study addresses the historical evolution of the city of Czernowitz, starting with the position held within the state of Moldavia, from the early Middle Ages until its annexation by the Austrian Empire, at the beginning of the last quarter of the 18th century, in order to insist afterwards on the period as it was under Habsburg rule, and finally make some remarks on its situation during the period between the two world wars, when it was part of Romania. Since 1775 and until 1918, as the capital city of the province of Bukovina, Czernowitz was the prime focus for the Romanians in the province, here residing the provincial administration, the Bukovina Diet, the Episcopate and later the Orthodox Metropolis, as well as the educational and cultural institutions, headed by the high school and the university. In 1862, the Romanian elite in Czernowitz founded “The Society for Romanian Literature and Culture in Bukovina”, which together with the student societies, such as “Junimea” (“The Youth”), had an important role in the cultural and national emancipation of the Bukovina Romanians. The refuge here of a part of the Moldavian political elite in 1821 and 1848, as well as the contact with the Bukovina Romanian leaders helped strengthen the national solidarity. Here the main Romanian political groups and parties have existed, as well as their leaders, who have activated in the spirit of national defence and promotion of the national rights. Later, in the fall of 1918, at the time of Austria-Hungary’s collapse, Romanian national movement leaders meeting in Czernowitz proclaimed the union of Bukovina with Romania.

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