LIVIU BRĂTESCU*

ROMANIAN LIBERALISM AND ITS CONSERVATORY TEMPTATIONS (1884–1888)
(Summary)

Keywords: liberals, conservatives, Romanian society, I. C. Brătianu, nineteenth century.

Appointed by the opponents as being representatives of leftist values, Romanian liberals have shown over the second half of the nineteenth century an impressive pragmatism in their current activity. Without many doctrinal concerns, liberals around I. C. Brătianu succeeded during the great liberal governance to adapt the principles of European liberalism to the realities of the Romanian society. Taking into account their direct connection with the economic environment the adoption of an economic protectionist legislation did not surprise too many people even if some initiative requires the state intervention in the economy however improper to the liberal principles.

The surprise were to be given by the ability of I. C. Brătianu, to gain control over, after 1883, the political leaders known rather as being followers of conservative ideas than promoters of the liberal ideology. People like Dimitrie Ghica will be between those who will ensure, through their political relations, the supporting by which the Prime Minister Brătianu needed, in a period in which became more challenged at domestic level. The appropriation of the conservative ideas by I. C. Brătianu had puzzled long enough the opponents and allies. This fact has shown that the Romanian liberalism have at the end of the nineteenth century a great capacity for adaptation in her speech that ensure the survival beyond the temporary presence in government.

* Cercetător științific, Institutul de Istorie „A. D. Xenopol” al Academiei Române – Filiala Iași.