Voices of Romanian Antisemitism in Late 19th Century: The Case of Literary Society „Junimea” in Iași

(Summary)

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Modern Romania was created in the mid of the 19th century, after the union of Moldova and Muntenia (1859) and the publication of a Constitution (1866). This significantly impacted the life of the important Jewish community of the new state. Article 7 of the Constitution precluded Jews to gain citizenship. Thus “a Jewish problem” was created, nationally and internationally. During the Congress of Berlin, the European Powers conditioned the recognition of Romania’s sovereignty with the emancipation of the Romanian Jews. The recommendations of the Congress, which requested citizenship rights for Jews, triggered fierce public and political debates in Romania. Different versions of nationalist discourses emerged, with few favorable to the idea of granting political rights to Jews. In these debates, “Junimea”, a very prestigious and influential cultural and political group, played an essential role. The members of Junimea were conservatives, but its leaders viewed the solution to “the Jewish problem” in different ways.