Since the communist regime granted history a major importance, historical themes were used due to their symbolic value in order to gain legitimacy. The historical discourse helped the regime to promote a different understanding of the past. But, alongside with history, literature had an important contribution in spreading historical concepts.

The historical literature from communist Romania followed the historiography in transmitting to the public important representations of the past. This type of literature proved to be a more efficient mean of disseminating historical concepts, since it was more accessible and had the tendency to focus on the imaginary. The literary works of the communist regime transformed history and included it into an ideological frame, in order to legitimate the communist reality. Romanian writers started to build heroes inspired from historical characters such as Tudor Vladimirescu or Nicolae Bălcescu. They portrayed these characters by using the power of fiction but also by taking into consideration the official historiographical directives of that time. In the following paper we focus on the personality of Tudor Vladimirescu, as it was found in the socialist realism literature from communist Romania. We follow the themes used by the writers in order to portrait Tudor Vladimirescu as a great revolutionary hero. Finally, we try to understand the impact of these literary representations on the public’s interpretation of the past.