

IANA BALAN*

**THE VISIT OF TSAR NICHOLAS II IN CONSTANȚA IN JUNE 1914
(Summary)**

Keywords: Romanian-Russian relations, dynastic closeness, Balkan problem, cordial visit, keeping the status-quo, maintaining peace.

The visit of Tsar Nicholas II in Constanța, result of Russian diplomacy initiative, was an important event that drew attention of public opinion and political circles. The diplomatic value of event was given by the presence of Russian and Romanian ministers especially that of Russian minister of foreign affairs Serghei D. Sazonov. The short duration of the visit suggested that it was just a cordial visit between monarchs, but the presence of Sazonov and the fact that he extended his stay for a few more days and discussed with King Carol I and Ionel Brătianu, in addition to discussions he had with politicians, make the event even more important. Sazonov's careful preparations of the visit highlighted Russia's objectives regarding the Balkans, the straits problem, the Alban problem and the Bucharest Peace Treaty.

At that time, the event was greatly reflected in local and foreign press. The newspapers from Triple Entente and Triple Alliance states observed in detail the evolution of the event and tried to make a note of Russian imperial family's visit to Constanța. The common point in press articles was the speculation of Romanian foreign policy change from an alliance to another or at least the fear of going in such direction.

The visit of Russian Tsar in Constanța did not mean a change of direction in Romanian foreign policy but merely the possibility of probing both sides. At that time, neither Romania nor Russia were willing to join an alliance, but Romania's interest was to analyze the tendencies and the availability of Russian cabinet towards and eventual alliance, while Russia tried to observe how close was Romania with Triple Alliance.

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