

LIVIU BRĂTESCU*

REFORMERS “FROM THE SHADOWS” OF MODERN ROMANIA:
VASILE LASCĂR
(Summary)

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The present research focuses on the activity of the politician Vasile Lascăr and represents a biographical approach in order to establish the role that the liberal had in the modernization process of Romanian society in the last decades of the 19th century. We investigate the mechanisms through which he managed to stand out within the liberal “family” and impose his mark on an essential field, namely public administration. Initially, a discreet member of the team led by I. C. Brătianu and attentive at the same time to the “tectonic” movements in Romanian politics after the accession of Carol I to the throne of Romania, managed to shape himself not only as one of the reformist liberal leaders in the true sense of the word, but also as a potential leader of the PNL. With a strong liberal thinking, he campaigned not only in favor of the modernization of the Romanian public administration from the position of minister, but also for the solution of “peasant issues” which he considered vital for the economic development of the country. Vasile Lascăr, together with other liberals, managed to promote principles such as the rule of law, freedom of elections, universal suffrage with proportional representation, improving the condition of the peasantry, the political independence of civil servants, etc. The present analysis aims to reconstruct the political destiny of a “forgotten” liberal.

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