

The Rituals of Imperial Power: The Visit of Nicholas I to Bessarabia (1828)

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Abstract: *Heads of states and governments used to attempt the symbolic legitimization of their own power. One of the forms of these political rituals was represented by initiatives to promote grandiloquent visits and trips. Unlike the heads of national states, the emperors transformed these actions into oversized inspections of the newly incorporated provinces.*

The visit of the tsar Nicholas I to Bessarabia at the end of spring in 1828 had a double role: a legislative one by issuing a new permanent statute of the region from the official point of view and, one of a military nature, symbolized by some short inspections of the Bender Fortress and garrisons situated in proximity of the Danube river. Therefore, this visit differed from the similar action of his predecessor – Alexander I. The brother of Nicholas I proclaimed the new provisional statute of the Bessarabia region in 1818. We can definitely affirm that the following agenda of the Russian tsar in the Bessarabian context had an exclusively military character because the emperor Alexander II diffused a war proclamation to the Ottoman Empire in 1877.

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