

## Lithuania and Republic of Moldova: From Medieval Collaboration to European Integration\*

Octavian Țicu\*\*

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**Abstract:** *Although Lithuania and the Republic of Moldova left the Soviet empire at the same time as well as they entered there, the destinies of the two countries were different after. Lithuania, with a remarkable effort of democratization, soon became part of the Euro-Atlantic civilization through integration into NATO and the European Union, while Moldova has chosen Community of Independent States. Since old medieval times, when Lithuania and Moldova were neighbours, the two states had close and good relations, fought together in different wars, kept dynastic relations (either by marriages or alliances), and maintained intensive commercial and economic ties, to modern times of European Integration, when the Lithuanian authorities assist the Republic of Moldova to implement joint projects aimed at strengthening its institutional capacities and to path its way to European Union, a particular sense of unity could be attested in the destinies of the two countries. Unfaithful experiences within the Russian Empire, when Lithuania and Bessarabia were annexed approximately in the same time (Lithuania in 1792-1795 and Bessarabia in 1812), then within the Soviet Union, which occupied both entities in 1940 as result of Molotov-Ribbentrop pact and exposed them to the effects of the Soviet totalitarian regime that had profound and lasting effects on the ethnic composition and political identity of the republics, strengthened the perception of common destiny and sometimes common decision to fight for freedom and independence.*

**Keywords:** Lithuania, Republic of Moldova, European Integration, European collaboration.

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\*\* Doctor, Researcher-Coordinator at Institute of History, Academy of Science of the Republic of Moldova.