

## **Romania's Neutrality and Path to the Great War reflected in *The Austro-Hungarian red book***

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**Abstract:** *Based on the studying of The Austro-Hungarian red book, a wartime pamphlet containing telegraphic messages sent by Austro-Hungarian diplomats in 1914-1916 and its corroboration with other contemporary sources, the current study presents a new, greater extent perspective about Romanian neutrality and its path to war. Its main characteristics are showing how good the Central Powers espionage was organised and how well it functioned (as the diplomats knew very well, sometimes in detail, about the Romanian secret talks with the Entente) and giving insights on several important events from Romania's neutrality from the first crown council during the July crisis to its first days of war, sometimes with extensive descriptions about the evolution of Romanian key figures like Ionel Brătianu, kings Carol and Ferdinand, queens Elisabeth and Mary or Titu Maiorescu.*

**Keywords:** *Ottokar Czernin, Count Berchtold, Ionel Brătianu, Constantin Stere, Alexandru Marghiloman, Romanian neutrality, war preparations.*

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