

The 16th Economic International Conference
New Challenges and Opportunities for the Economy 4.0
May 7, 2020 – May 8, 2020

**THE REGIME OF CONTRIBUTIONS AND MATERIAL
AND FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS OF THE JEWS DURING
THE ANTONESCU REGIME (1940-1944)**

Drd. Emanuel BĂLAN

Stefan cel Mare University of Suceava, 720229, Romania

emanuel.balan_tgn@yahoo.com 2014-2020.

THE REGIME OF CONTRIBUTIONS AND MATERIAL AND FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS OF THE JEWS DURING THE ANTONESCU REGIME (1940-1944)

- In the Proclamation to the country, on the occasion of the takeover of power in the state, in September 1940, General Ion Antonescu presented his government program stating that: "I will present the program to you so that you all can judge it. It will spring entirely from the creed of integral nationalism" (Official Gazette, 1940).
- According to Mihai Antonescu, the anti-Jewish legislation contributed to "shaking the Romanian property of the foreign mistletoe and removing the overwhelming role of the Jews in the economic life" (Mihai A. Antonescu, 1942).
- The authorities used the pretext that the Jews "had not been obliged to perform military service or serve in the army and had not risked their lives in war" and subjected them to numerous material and financial contributions that have exceeded their material possibilities.
- The material condition of the Jews was a precarious one, as a result of the measures taken by the authorities, measures which aimed at mass dismissals, dispossession of material goods, evictions or taxation of all kinds which contributed to the poverty of the Jews.

THE REGIME OF CONTRIBUTIONS AND MATERIAL AND FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS OF THE JEWS DURING THE ANTONESCU REGIME (1940-1944)

- In all this activity of spoliation, Jews' Central played an important role and Radu Lecca put into practice the policy of the Antonian regime. In his memoirs, Lecca wrote about this need for money: "Mrs. Antonescu used to demand money for the Patronage, Mihai Antonescu always demanded money for Argeş County, where he built schools, churches, etc. - to gain popularity in the case of elections - there was also von Killinger, who had also many needs (...) "(Radu Lecca, 1994).
- All these obligations, which will be tackled in this paper, were worth 1,800,135,600 lei., for the period analysed, according to the work of Matatias Carp.

THE REGIME OF CONTRIBUTIONS AND MATERIAL AND FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS OF THE JEWS DURING THE ANTONESCU REGIME

1. The „The Patronage Council” of Mrs. Antonescu

These social obligations were included in the Law of the The Patronage Council of social works, law presented to the government by the Minister of Justice himself, Tomescu, at the beginning of April 1941, by which all the Jews were affected, even if the law did not contain the term "Jewish". The law was intended to coordinate all "works of protection and social assistance" throughout Romania through "close cooperation between public authorities and the private initiative" (Timpul, 1941). Until July 1, 1943, the amount of 410 million lei was deposited, the amount which come from the taxes imposed for issuing compulsory work exemption cards (ACSIER, fund III).

2. The Loan of Reunion

It was launched immediately after the re-integration of Bessarabia and northern Bukovina in 1941, and the leaders called on the Jewish population to "seek each to serve as an example to the others;

Thus, on May 20, 1942, the date when the census of the Jewish population was carried out, the subscribed amount was 1,994,209,141 lei (Activitatea Centralei evreilor din România, 1998).

3. Collections of sanitary equipment and clothing

They represented other obligations imposed by decrees-laws, under criminal sanctions. Their value for the analysed period amounted to 1,800,135,600 lei. This action began on September 1, 1941, and a law was issued in this respect, the Law for compelling Jews to contribute to the creation of clothing stocks in the social interest, from October 20, 1941. The quantities of effects handed over by the Jewish authorities were immense: 204,717 shirts, 203,790 linens, 205,775 pairs of stockings, 359,505 handkerchiefs, 203,373 towels, 104,841 sweaters, 80,103 suits, 67,894 pairs of shoes, 34, 444 , 34,095 sheets, 65,805 bed and pillow covers, 20,139 coats, thousands of other clothes, hospital equipment (Jean Ancel, 2008).

-

4. Exempt labor taxes for public benefit

It was another means of financial plunder to the Jews, as an equivalent of compulsory labor. Its establishment and collection was arbitrary, the amounts collected only between April 1, 1943 and August 23, 1944, amounting to 3,034,148,141 lei. Also here were the exemption from the snow work, a contribution imposed by those who belong to a certain category of Jews, especially intellectuals, exempted from the obligation to clean the sidewalks and streets of cities. These taxes applied in the winter of 1942-1943 and 1943-1944 amounted to 144,024,375 lei (Jean Ancel, 2003).

5. Exceptional contribution of four billion lei

This tax was imposed in April 1943 by Marshal Antonescu himself, to the entire Romanian population. Under the threat of deportation to Transnistria, the Jews contributed 734,156,308 lei (Matatias Carp, 1996).

6. The palace of disabled persons/ invalids

A contribution imposed from the initiative of the leader of the Jewish Central of Romania, for the construction of a hospital (called Z.I. 303 Bucharest) in which the wounded of war are cared for and professionally integrated the war invalids. The total subscription of the Jewish Central in Romania was of 100,000,000 lei (Activitatea Centralei evreilor din România, 1998).

All these “Romanianization” measures were justified by Antonescu in a memorandum handed over to the People's Court before its execution. In his report he stated that through these measures to help the war, he left a stable economy, with a stable currency with the increase of the BNR's gold reserve, a smooth economic life and investments in infrastructure.

But from the contribution of the population of 30 billion lei, almost a third was extorted from the Jews.

REFERENCES

- Activitatea Centralei evreilor din România*. (1998). București, Editura Alma Tip.
- Ancel, Jean. (2003). *Contribuții la istoria României. Problematika evreiască (1933-1944)*, vol. 2, partea a doua. București, Editura Hasefer.
- Ancel, Jean. (2008). *Distrugerea economică a evreilor români*. București, Editura Institutului „Elie Wiesel”.
- Antonescu, Ion. (1941, October 20). Legea nr. 936. Monitorul Oficial, p. 6497-6499.
- Antonescu, Ion. (1942, January 19). Legea nr. 46. Monitorul Oficial, p. 299.
- Antonescu, Mihai A. (f.a.). *Doi ani de guvernare. 6 septembrie 1940 . 6 septembrie 1942*. București, Editura Națională Dacia Traiană.
- Carp, Matatias. (1996). *Cartea Neagră. Fapte și documente. Suferințele evreilor din România 1940-1944*, vol. I, ediția a II-a. București, Editura Diogene.

THE REGIME OF CONTRIBUTIONS AND MATERIAL AND FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS OF THE JEWS DURING THE ANTONESCU REGIME (1940-1944)

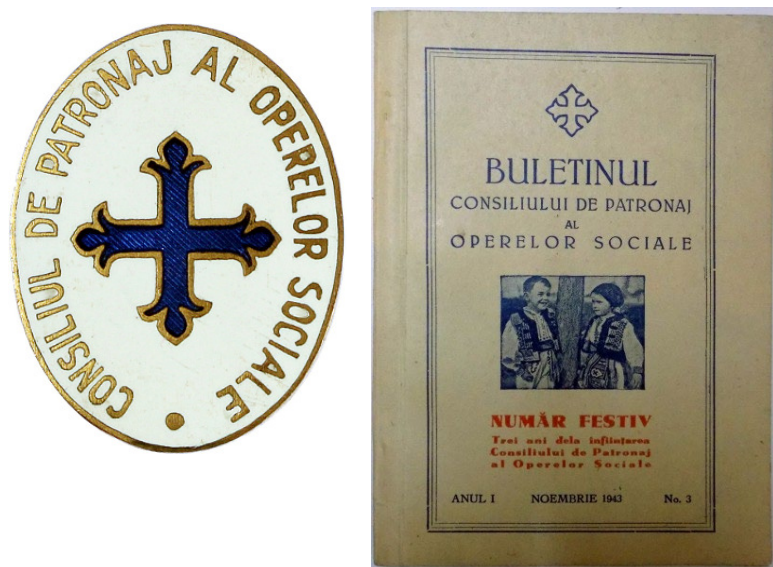


Fig. 1 - The „The Patronage Council” of Mrs. Antonescu

(https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Consiliul_de_Patronaj_al_Operelor_Sociale#/media/)



Fig.2- The Loan of Reunion

(<https://www.galeriasigma.ro/produs/AFIS+ORIGINAL%2C+IMPRUMUL+REINTREGIRII+>

Thank you for your attention!