

GH. BUZATU

**A HISTORY
OF
ROMANIAN OIL**

1970

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A HISTORY OF ROMANIAN OIL, I

*In memory of my beloved and
never forgotten children,
LAURA and LUCIAN,
who traveled
to the
Beyond
much too soon...*

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COLLECTION

***THE ROMANIANS IN WORLD
HISTORY***
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GH. BUZATU**

TRANSLATED BY

LAURA CHISTRUGA-SCHNEIDER

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FORWARD

It is unnecessary to argue, here and now, *what petroleum represented and represents*, for the evolution of the World at the beginnings of our century and millenium. I have no doubt that the present *History* will convince the reader that petroleum – or so-called “*the black gold*” or “*the King*” of contemporary economy – had become a veritable *nervum rerum* for the development of modern civilization on the whole. Recently, Professor **Aymeric Chauprade**, a well-known French geopolitician, pointing out the place and the role of petroleum in contemporary world, surprised in this kind the key-elements of the *oil question* in this moment:

«En 1917, en faisant sortir les soldats des tranchées, le pétrole renversa le cours de la guerre. En 1945, la mobilité tactique rendue possible par le contrôle des ressources pétrolières se révélait déterminante dans les victoires américaine et russe contre l’Allemagne. En 1995, lorsque Belgrade cédait à Washington, l’armée serbe, étouffée par un blocus continental et maritime, avait

épuisé son carburant. L'oublierait-on aujourd'hui ? En temps de guerre, l'accès à l'or noir reste un facteur clé de la victoire... » (cf. Aymeric Chauprade, *Etats-Unis, Russie, Chine – Guerre pour le pétrole!*, in “L'Histoire”, Paris, 279/2003, p. 56; Etienne Dalemont, *Le pétrole*, Paris, PUF, 1971, *passim*).

A History of Romanian Petroleum retraces, on the basis of a vast bibliography and of important documents discovered throughout the years in Romanian and foreign archives (the U.S.A, Great Britain, the Russian Federation, France and Germany), the beginnings, the development and the full affirmation of an industry that, for decades, played a very important role in determining the destiny of modern Romania – *the oil industry*; it also analyzes the oil policy of the cabinets in Bucharest for a period of almost one hundred years (1857-1947) and, last but not least, if not in particular, it follows the evolution of the question of Romanian liquid fuel in an international context.

Prefacing this *History*, I consider it a pleasant duty to express my deepest appreciation and all gratitude to the people and the institutions that supported and encouraged my studies:

- Professor *Aurel Loghin*, the scientific coordinator of my doctorate thesis (1971);
- Academicians *Mihnea Gheorghiu*, *Mihai Drăgănescu*, former president of the Romanian Academy, *Cristofor I. Simionescu*, former president of the Iași Branch of the Romanian Academy;

- My colleagues at *The Center of European History and Civilization* of the Iași Branch of the Romanian Academy, particularly *Stela Cheptea*;
- Economist *Adriana Frangu*, chief financial officer of S.C. Oil Terminal S.A. Constanța;
- The management department of the prestigious publishing house *Editura Enciclopedică* in Bucharest and its director – who has always been our colleague and true friend, *Marcel D. Popa*;
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- Romanian Academy and the IREX Foundation in Princeton, New Jersey, U.S.A.

I would like to mention that some of the *History*'s chapters, now revized and developped, have been previously fructified in the monograph *România și trusturile petroliere internaționale până la 1929 (Romania*