

GH. BUZATU

**A HISTORY  
OF  
ROMANIAN OIL**

1970

**BUCHAREST  
MICA VALAHIE PUBLISHING HOUSE**

**A HISTORY OF ROMANIAN OIL, II**

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



**GH. BUZATU**

**A HISTORY  
OF  
ROMANIAN OIL**

**II**

**Translated by  
LAURA CHISTRUGA**

**MC**

**Bucharest  
“Mica Valahie” Publishing House  
2011**

COLLECTION

***THE ROMANIANS IN WORLD  
HISTORY***  
(VOL. 111)

**EDITOR:**

**GH. BUZATU**

**ISBN: 978-973-7858-68-9**

**ISBN: 978-973-7858-91-7 (GENERAL)**

# CONTENTS

FORWARD .....	7
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS .....	11
THE GREAT ECONOMIC CRISIS AND THE PETROLEUM QUESTION (1929-1937) .....	13
THE PRELUDE OF THE GREAT CONFRONTATION, 1938-1939 .....	70
PETROLEUM AND THE WORLD WAR .....	118
WAR OR PEACE? .....	262
CONCLUSION .....	273
ROMANIA IN XX-TH CENTURY - B I B L I O G R A P H Y .....	279
<i>ANNEX A</i> .....	349
<i>ANNEX B</i> .....	431



## **FORWARD**<sup>1</sup>

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.*

---

<sup>1</sup> See *A History of Romanian Oil*, I, Bucharest, “Mica Valahie” Publishing House”, 2004, p. 7-8.

*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 my colleague and true friend, *Marcel D. Popa*;
- *Mariana Vlad*, the director of “Mica Valahie” Publishing House in Bucharest;
- The management departments of a number of great libraries and archives in Romania and abroad – *Library of the Romanian Academy* in Bucharest; *National Library of Romania* in Bucharest; *Library “M. Eminescu” of the “Al. I. Cuza” University* in Iași; *The National Archives of Romania* in Bucharest; *National Library of the Russian Federation* and *The Special Archives* in Moscow; *Library of Congress* and *The U.S. National Archives* in Washington, D.C; *Library of Stanford University* and *Hoover Institution on War, Revolution, and Peace/Hoover Institution Archives* in Palo Alto, California; *F.D. Roosevelt Library* in Hyde Park, New York; *Public Record Office* and *British Library/British Museum* in London; *The University Libraries* in Freiburg im Breisgau and Stuttgart, Germany;
- 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 revised and developed, have been previously fructified in the monograph *România și trusturile petroliere internaționale până la 1929 (Romania and the International Oil Trusts until 1929)* (Iași, Editura Junimea, 1981), distinguished with the Romanian Academy Award, and in *O istorie a petrolului românesc* (Bucharest, Editura Enciclopedică, 1998).

With the hope that the supreme judge of a book, the Reader, will find many interesting pages in this volume, worthy of profound meditation and filled with lessons to be