

MIGRATING MEMORIES

Romanian Germans, mainly from the Banat and Transylvania, have occupied a place at the very heart of major events in Europe in the twentieth century, yet their history is largely unknown. This east-central European minority negotiated their standing in a difficult new European order after 1918, changing from uneasy supporters of Romania, to zealous Nazis, tepid Communists, and conciliatory Europeans. *Migrating Memories* is the first comprehensive study in English of Romanian Germans and follows their stories as they move across borders and between regimes, revealing a very European experience of migration, minorities, and memories in modern Europe. After 1945, Romanian Germans struggled to make sense of their lives during the Cold War at a time when the community began to fracture and fragment. The revolutions of 1989 seemed to mark the end of the German community in Romania, but instead Romanian Germans repositioned themselves as transnational European bridge-builders, staking out new claims in a fast-changing world.

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MIGRATING MEMORIES

Romanian Germans in Modern Europe

JAMES KORANYI

University of Durham



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To Nora, Clara, and Nina

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Note on the Text

Names are political. In east-central Europe, the choice of language and name can trigger intense discussions about place and belonging. In *Migrating Memories*, I have not been able to dodge that issue. I have tried to use place names according to their context. I have, for instance, insisted on Sibiu – and not Hermannstadt or Nagyszeben – when referring to the city after 1918. There are, however, additional complexities. If the city's name appeared in the original source as Hermannstadt, I have still used Sibiu unless there was an important cultural and political significance attached to the German (or other) name. When first mentioning a place in the book, I have included its name in its other dominant languages in brackets. Throughout the book, where they have appeared in German or Romanian, I have provided translations of names of organisations and institutions, ideas, and concepts. In only a very few instances have I left a word or expression in its original language. Any inconsistencies in language politics in this book are not intended as political statements.