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978-1-107-13196-5 - The State, Antisemitism, and Collaboration in the Holocaust:  
The Borderlands of Romania and the Soviet Union

Diana Dumitru

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## The State, Antisemitism, and Collaboration in the Holocaust

Based on original sources, this important new book on the Holocaust explores regional variations in civilians' attitudes and behavior toward the Jewish population in Romania and the occupied Soviet Union. Gentiles' willingness to assist Jews was greater in lands that had been under Soviet administration during the interwar period, whereas Gentiles' willingness to harm Jews occurred more in lands that had been under Romanian administration during the same period. While acknowledging the disasters of Communist rule in the 1920s and 1930s, this work shows the effectiveness of Soviet nationalities policy in the official suppression of antisemitism. This book offers a corrective to the widespread consensus that homogenizes Gentile responses throughout Eastern Europe, demonstrating that what states did in the interwar period mattered; relations between social groups were not fixed and destined to repeat themselves, but rather fluid and susceptible to change over time.

Diana Dumitru is Associate Professor of History in the World History Department at Ion Creangă State Pedagogical University. She has been awarded prestigious fellowships, including the Gerda Henkel Stiftung fellowship, the International Institute for Holocaust Research Postdoctoral Fellowship for Study and Research at Yad Vashem, and the Rosenzweig Family Fellowship for research at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. She has authored over twenty articles and two books and in 2012 received the Mary Parker Follett Award for the best article or chapter published in the field of politics and history awarded by the American Political Science Association.

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# The State, Antisemitism, and Collaboration in the Holocaust

*The Borderlands of  
Romania and the Soviet Union*

DIANA DUMITRU

*Ion Creangă State Pedagogical University*

*Published in association with the  
United States Holocaust Memorial Museum*

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32 Avenue of the Americas, New York NY 10013

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[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)

Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781107131965](http://www.cambridge.org/9781107131965)

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First published 2016

Printed in the United States of America by Sheridan Books, Inc.

*A catalog record for this publication is available from the British Library.*

*Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data*

Names: Dumitru, Diana, author.

Title: The state, antisemitism, and collaboration in the Holocaust : the borderlands of Romania and the Soviet Union / Diana Dumitru.

Description: New York : Cambridge University Press, 2016. |

Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2015042437 | ISBN 9781107131965 (hardback)

Subjects: LCSH: Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945) | Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945) – Romania. | Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945) – Soviet Union. |

Romania – Ethnic relations. | Soviet Union – Ethnic relations. |

Antisemitism – Romania. | Antisemitism – Soviet Union.

Classification: LCC D804.3 .D8355 2016 | DDC 940.53/180947-dc23

LC record available at <http://lcn.loc.gov/2015042437>

ISBN 978-1-107-13196-5 Hardback

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*To my parents Anastasia and Victor*

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## Acknowledgments

More than a decade ago, while in the United States, I read a book that I found greatly disturbing. The book was entitled *Neighbors: The Destruction of the Jewish Community in Jedwabne, Poland*, and was authored by Jan Gross. That was the moment this project began. *Neighbors* prompted me to ask about Jewish–Gentile relations during World War II in my own country, and forced me to wonder why, as a trained historian, I had not learned very much about the Holocaust as it occurred in Moldova. What followed was a long research journey aimed at satisfying this initial curiosity and paying a debt of historical knowledge to a minority that Moldovan and Soviet historiography had chosen to neglect. Starting from day one of this project, Donald Raleigh, from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, has been a true mentor and friend. I turned to him for advice and guidance innumerable times, and he has remained unwavering in the generosity of his time throughout. To him, therefore, I owe my greatest debt. A very special thank you must go to the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies of the United States Holocaust Museum and to the Rosenzweig Family Fellowship, the support of which, through a nine-month study visit to Washington, D.C., was central to the production of this book. The Director of the Museum’s International Archival Programs, Radu Ioanid, has been a wonderful adviser and friend. He helped me to locate valuable archival collections among mountains of papers, and was quick to offer his support at various stages of work on this book. Radu’s insightful comments on the initial design of my research project were enormously helpful in shaping this book’s form and content. The Director of the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel

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Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, Paul Shapiro, encouraged my work from the very beginning, and his advocacy of scholarship of the Holocaust in Romania has eased my path through the foibles of Moldovan historiography. Among many others, Vadim Altskan, Wendy Lower, Martin Dean, Michlean Amir, Lisa Pearl, and Lisa Zaid ensured that my research at the Museum was both academically successful and truly joyful. The assistance of Benton Arnovitz, the Center's Director of Academic Publications, was essential in overseeing the review process of this manuscript at the Museum. In this context, my most profound gratitude goes to Michael Gelb, who was a genuine supporter of my research from the beginning and encouraged me to turn the manuscript into a book. He read the entire manuscript at least three times – which makes it more than he read his favorite book, Orhan Pamuk's *The Black Book* – and edited it with both care and a deep understanding of the text. Moreover, his good will and gracious humor helped to ease the discouragement that hung over me during times of lull.

I owe a special thanks to the late Jean Ancel, whom I first met in Washington in 2004. Jean Ancel was a rare scholar-phenomenon, with encyclopedic knowledge, who dedicated his life to the history of the destruction of so many of the Jews of Romania. Most of my research questions and primary hypotheses crystallized during a single, one-hour discussion we had together. As a complete novice in the field of Holocaust studies, I took meticulous notes of his multiple suggestions, many of which I did not fully understand at the time. I was astounded to discover, over the subsequent years, how much Jean Ancel anticipated the trajectory of my research. No doubt, this book would have been a better one had he not passed away in 2008.

While at the University of Toronto, I found another island of academic excellence, where I have never felt more intellectually at home. I shared my research interests with Jeffrey Kopstein who, over the years, has become a marvelous friend, and from whose insight and advice, I have benefited greatly. More broadly, that university was a fantastic place in which to discuss various topics on Russian and East European studies, one where I broadened my horizon immensely. Here, I am greatly indebted to Lynne Viola, who generously shared with me her valuable time and expertise in Soviet history and beyond, and open-heartedly supported me in so many areas, including advice related to the publication of this book. She has provided me with an admirable example of scholarly integrity and discipline. Doris Bergen, an erudite scholar of the Holocaust, offered invaluable comments on parts of the manuscript and

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book proposal as well as her personal kindness. Anna Shternshis was always a delight to meet, ready to share both her extensive knowledge of the history of Soviet Jewry and her good cheer.

I am especially grateful to Zvi Gitelman at the University of Michigan, who became my informal advisor ever since my time spent at the Museum. He shared documents with me and read and critiqued parts of this manuscript. His sweeping knowledge, enthusiasm, and wit were most motivational in my scholarly activity. For the past ten years, he inspired me as a model researcher and teacher. I also am greatly indebted to Charles King, Kate Brown, and an anonymous reader for their reviews of the manuscript; all were tremendously helpful for the final version of this book. Their very detailed analyses and constructive comments helped me to approach the tensions within the book and provided me with a roadmap for improvements.

Many of the ideas from this book were refined in conversations with Vladimir Solonari, Dieter Pohl, Arkady Zeltser, Michael David-Fox, Dirk Moses, Kiril Feferman, and Anna Cichopek-Gajraj. I am also grateful to Mark Sandle, Jutta Scherrer, Igor Niculcea, Adrian Cioflâncă, Mihail Ionescu, Alexandru Florian, Michael Shafir, Adrienne Jacobs, Chad Bryant, Robert Jenkins, and Jeremy Pinkham for their assistance at various stages of my research. Thanks also to my friends and colleagues in Chişinău – Octavian Munteanu, Sergiu Musteaţă, Andrei Cuşco, Igor Caşu, Petru Negură, Svetlana Suveică, Anastasia Felcher, and Alex Voronovici – who provided both a stimulating environment and the warmth I craved, especially given that the larger Moldovan academic community was not the most welcoming to my topic.

Grateful acknowledgment is made to the National Archive of the Republic of Moldova, the Archive of Socio-Political Organizations of the Republic of Moldova, the National Archives of Romania, the State Archive of the Odessa Region, the Russian State Archive of Socio-Political History, Yad Vashem Archives, and the Archives of United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. During my research at Yad Vashem, Rita Margolin, Eliot Nidam Orvieto, and Katya Gusarov offered me considerable assistance, for which I am extremely grateful.

At Cambridge University Press, I am grateful to Senior Editor Lew Bateman, Assistant Editor Elda Granata, Pilot Project Manager Rachel Cox, as well as the Production Editing Manager Shari Chappell.

This research received generous funding from the Black Sea Link Research Fellowship, New Europe College; the Centre for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies at the University of Toronto; the Open

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Society Institute Visiting Research Fellowship at Central European University; the Gerda Henkel Stiftung's Research Scholarship's Special Program to Support the Next Generation of Historians in Russia, Ukraine, Moldova and Belorussia; and the International Institute for Holocaust Research Postdoctoral Fellowship for Study and Research at Yad Vashem. Portions of this manuscript were published as "Constructing Interethnic Conflict and Cooperation: Why Some People Harmed and Others Helped Jews during the Romanian Holocaust," *World Politics* 63, no. 1 (January 2011): 1–42 (co-authored with Carter Johnson). Parts of Chapter 2 were published as "Attitudes towards Jews in Odessa: From Soviet Rule through Romanian Occupation, 1921–1944," *Cahiers du monde russe* 52, 1 (Janvier-mars 2011): 133–62, EHESS, Paris. Some early portions of my research were published as "The Attitude of the Non-Jewish Population of Bessarabia and Transnistria towards the Jews during the Holocaust: A Survivors' Perspective," *Yad Vashem Studies* 37 (Spring 2009): 53–83. I would like to express my gratitude to the publishers for permission to reprint this material.

Throughout this time, I benefited greatly from the unconditional support of my parents, Anastasia and Victor Dumitru, and my truly exceptional sister Carolina Dumitru. They were my role models of honesty, dedication, and hard work; I have always tried to emulate them. Regrettably, the hard work I invested in this book also necessitated that I sacrifice much of the time and energy that I should have given to my wonderful son, Cristian. He has been remarkably understanding and supportive of these sacrifices. In the future, I hope he will be more successful than I am in striking the right balance between work and family. A warm and heartfelt thank you to my friend Ludmila Țiganu, for her true friendship that has lasted for a much longer period than this book has taken to write. Yet most of all, my gratitude goes to my husband and fellow scholar Carter Johnson, for all his tireless discussions of the ideas and conundrums from this book, for multiple re-readings of the manuscript, treasured suggestions, and for his endless love, encouragement, and comfort, which soothed the passage through the ebbs and flows of an arduous process. Without his precious support I doubt that this book would have ever appeared in print.

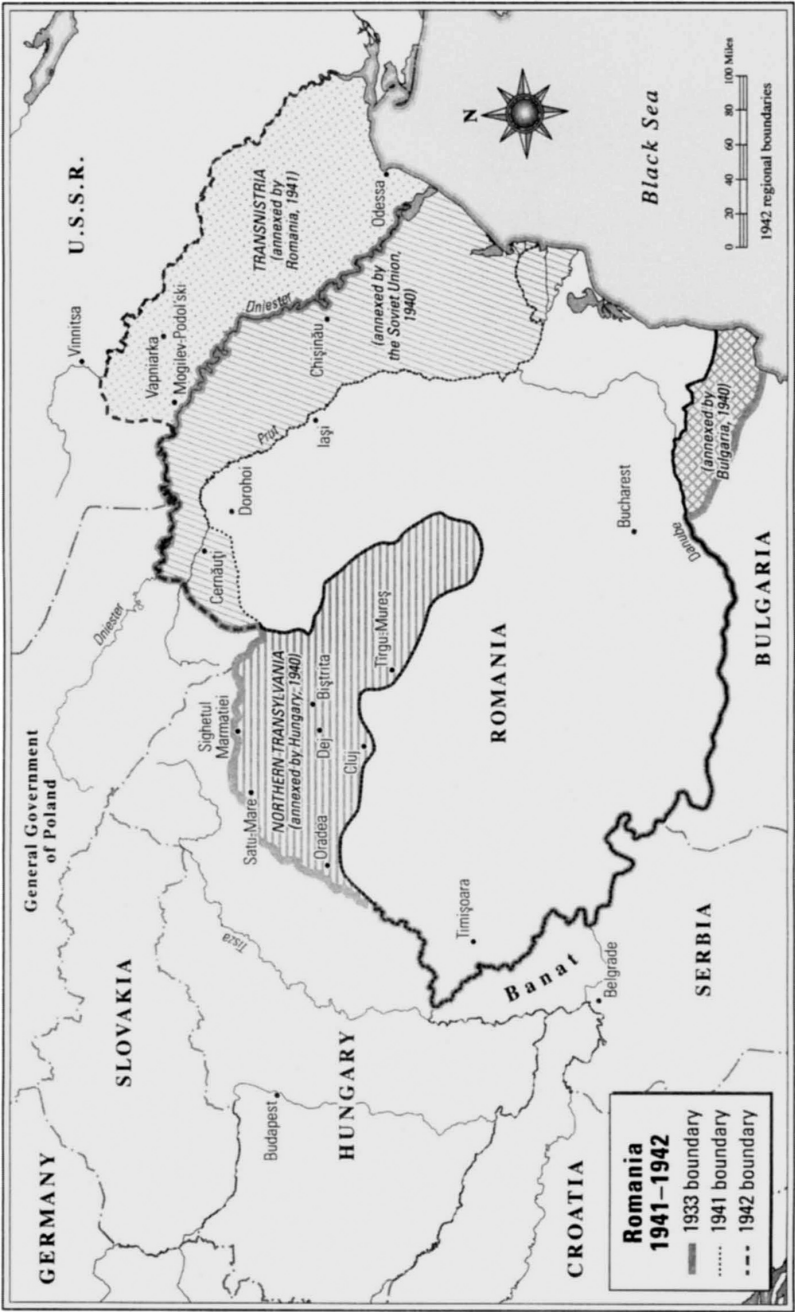
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MAP 1. Map showing percentage of Jews in gubernii of the Pale of Settlement. *The Jewish Encyclopedia*, vol. 10 (New York: Funk & Wagnall's, 1905). Wikimedia Commons.



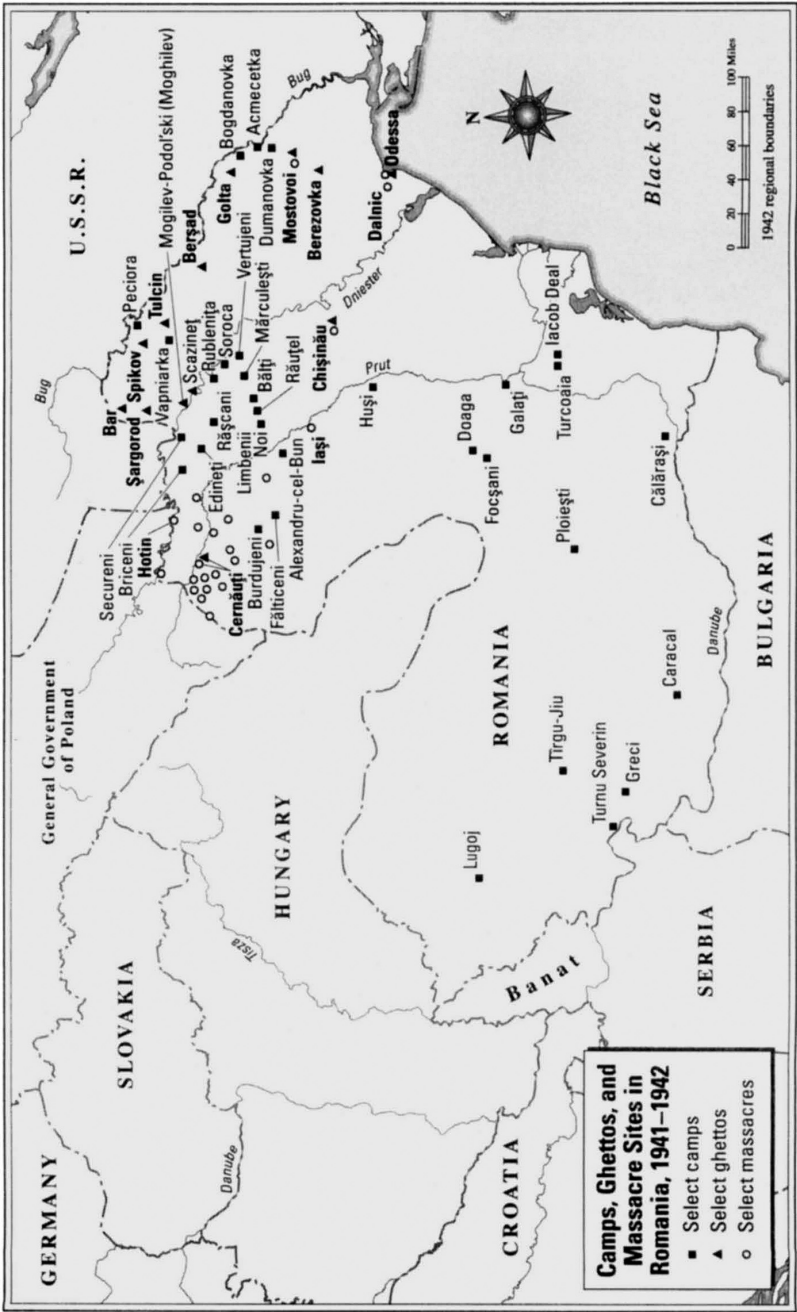
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MAP 2. Romania, 1941-1942. Radu Ioanid, *The Holocaust in Romania: The Destruction of Jews and Gypsies under the Antonescu Regime, 1940-1944* (Chicago: Ivan R. Dee in association with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, 2000). Courtesy: Rowman & Littlefield.



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MAP 3. Camps, Ghettos, and Massacre Sites in Romania, 1941–1942. Radu Ioanid, *The Holocaust in Romania: The Destruction of Jews and Gypsies under the Antonescu Regime, 1940–1944* (Chicago: Ivan R. Dee in association with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, 2000). Courtesy: Rowman & Littlefield.