

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-51158-3 - A History of the Roumanians: From Roman Times to the Completion of Unity

R. W. Seton-Watson

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

# A HISTORY OF THE ROUMANIANS

Cambridge University Press

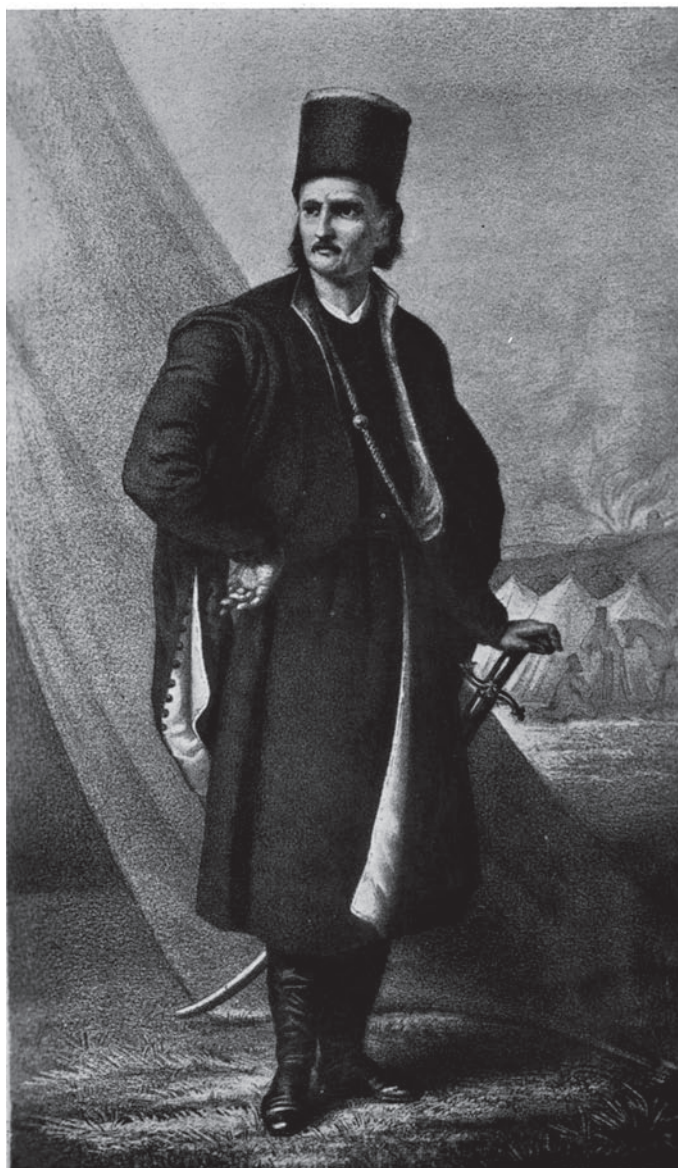
978-1-107-51158-3 - A History of the Roumanians: From Roman Times to the Completion of Unity

R. W. Seton-Watson

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

PLATE I



TUDOR VLADIMIRESCU

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-51158-3 - A History of the Roumanians: From Roman Times to the Completion of Unity

R. W. Seton-Watson

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

# A HISTORY OF THE ROUMANIANS

FROM ROMAN TIMES TO THE  
COMPLETION OF UNITY

by

R. W. SETON-WATSON

D.LITT., PH.D., F.B.A.

Masaryk Professor of Central European History in the  
University of London. Corresponding Member of  
the Roumanian and Bohemian Academies.

CAMBRIDGE  
AT THE UNIVERSITY PRESS  
1934

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-51158-3 - A History of the Roumanians: From Roman Times to the Completion of Unity

R. W. Seton-Watson

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

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

Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781107511583](http://www.cambridge.org/9781107511583)

© Cambridge University Press 1934

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 1934

First paperback edition 2015

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

ISBN 978-1-107-51158-3 Paperback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication, and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-107-51158-3 - A History of the Roumanians: From Roman Times to the Completion of Unity  
R. W. Seton-Watson  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---

AMICIS  
ULTRA SILVAM HABITANTIBUS  
AC PRAECIPUE  
NAPORENSIUM  
URBI STUDIOQUE  
CIVIS ET DOCTOR

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-107-51158-3 - A History of the Roumanians: From Roman Times to the Completion of Unity  
R. W. Seton-Watson  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-51158-3 - A History of the Roumanians: From Roman Times to the Completion of Unity

R. W. Seton-Watson

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## PREFACE

In 1920 I delivered courses of lectures on Roumanian history at King's College in the University of London, and portions of these were afterwards published in *History* and in the *Slavonic Review*. The lectures were then re-drafted and twice delivered in a new form—the last time in 1931. They gave the first impulse to the present volume, but it has been expanded and rewritten out of all recognition.

It is symptomatic of growing interest in a long neglected subject, that since 1918 no less than four admirable monographs on special aspects of Roumanian history have appeared in English—the diplomatic studies of Mr W. G. East and Professor T. E. Riker, Mr Ifor L. Evans's *The Agrarian Revolution in Roumania* and Dr D. Mitrany's *The Land and the Peasant in Roumania* (for the Carnegie Foundation)—to all of which I am in various ways indebted. None the less my own book may fairly claim to be the first attempt by any British writer to give a complete survey of Roumanian history from its obscure origins down to the achievement of national unity in our own day. But I cannot go farther without acknowledging my vast debt, and the abiding debt of every serious student for generations to come, to Professor Nicholas Iorga, of Bucarest University, to whose amazing vitality and industry we owe a whole library of general histories, monographs and collections of documents, ranging over the whole field of Near Eastern, Byzantine and Turkish history.

For many centuries Roumanian development was retarded and distorted by the interference of powerful neighbours to the south, north and west: and stress has therefore been laid upon the relations of the two Principalities with Turkey, the Empire, Hungary and Russia, and in modern times, upon Roumania's place in the Eastern Question. Above all, the Transylvanian problem, which provides the key to a right understanding of the Roumanian problem as a whole, has received very special attention: and within this framework will be found the first full account in English of the sad but highly interesting and instructive history of the Roumanian Orthodox and Uniate Churches. The concluding chapters deal with Roumania's rôle in the Balkan Wars, her neutrality, intervention and defeat in the World War, the final and

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-51158-3 - A History of the Roumanians: From Roman Times to the Completion of Unity

R. W. Seton-Watson

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

viii

## PREFACE

dramatic achievement of national unity and the conclusion of peace with Hungary in 1920.

I have tried to produce a plain narrative, treating of high and contentious matters without fear or favour. To some, Roumanian history may seem obscure and often inglorious: but there is a certain dynamic force in its vicissitudes, and Europe cannot show any more striking example of the corroding effects of foreign rule, of the failure of a policy of systematic assimilation and of the gradual triumph of national sentiment over unfavourable circumstances.

I owe a very special debt of gratitude to the Roumanian Academy, from whose rich collection of historical portraits the illustrations of this volume have been reproduced, and to Professor George Oprescu, of the Stelian Museum in Bucarest, for invaluable help in their selection and preparation. I am also indebted for constant advice during the preparation of the book to my friends Mr D. N. Ciotori, of the Roumanian Legation in London, Mr E. D. Madge, Mr Allen Leeper and Sir Bernard Pares, and not least of all to my wife. But needless to say, none of them are in any way responsible either for my facts or for my opinions.

R. W. SETON-WATSON

21 *May*, 1934



CONTENTS

CHAPTER

I	Roumanian Origins	<i>page</i> 1
II	The Beginnings of the Principalities	17
III	Turkish Vassalage (1504–1714)	50
IV	Transylvania under Native Princes (1526–1690)	101
V	The Phanariot Regime (1714–1821)	126
VI	Austria, Russia and the Roumanian Problem	144
VII	Transylvania under Habsburg Rule (1690–1792)	169
VIII	The Growth of Roumanian Nationality (1812–1848)	192
IX	The Movement for Unity (1848–1859)	220
X	Transylvania from 1792 to 1867	269
XI	From Unity to Independence	301
XII	The Reign of King Charles	346
XIII	Transylvania under the Dual System	390
XIV	Roumania and the Balkan Problem (1908–1914)	432
XV	Roumania and the Great War: the Period of Neutrality	475
XVI	War and Defeat (1916–1918)	493
XVII	The Completion of National Unity (1918–1920)	521
Appendix I.	Bukovina and Bessarabia under Foreign Rule	555
Appendix II.	The Population of Roumania	566
	Bibliography	569
	Index	579

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-107-51158-3 - A History of the Roumanians: From Roman Times to the Completion of Unity  
R. W. Seton-Watson  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

PLATES		
I	Tudor Vladimirescu	<i>Frontispiece</i>
II	Mircea the Old	<i>facing page 32</i>
III	Stephen the Great	44
IV	Peter Rareș	58
V	Michael the Brave	70
VI	Matthew Basarab	80
VII	Constantine Brâncoveanu	90
VIII	Demeter Cantemir	98
IX	Gabriel Bethlen	116
X	Constantine Mavrocordato	140
XI	Ioan Inocențiu Klein	176
XII	Barbu Știrbei	266
	Alexander Cuza	
XIII	Ion C. Brătianu	342
	Michael Kogălniceanu	
XIV	King Charles	354
XV	Andrei Țuțu	394
XVI	King Ferdinand and Queen Marie at their Coronation	554
MAP. Roumania and the Roumanians		

Available for download from [www.cambridge.org/9781107511583](http://www.cambridge.org/9781107511583)