



Book review

The Romania's Demography during the post-war period (1948-2015)

[*Demografia României în perioada postbelică (1948-2015)*] - Traian ROTARIU, Luminița DUMĂNESCU, Mihaela HĂRĂGUȘ. Iași: Polirom Publishing House, 2017. ISBN 978-973-46-6865-6.

The present work, carried out by a team of authors from Babeș-Bolyai University, addresses an interesting subject from the perspective of the geography of the population, namely the Romania's demography. Written in an accessible language, sometimes to the first plural person, with detailed explanations throughout his research methods, the book contains numerous tables and charts (the reference level being the national one) and is structured into two major parts: the first part (with five chapters, seven subchapters, annexes and references), contains a presentation of demographic indicators and demographic policies of the Communist period (1948-1989); the second part (with seven chapters, sixteen subchapters, annexes and references) contains a presentation of some demographic indicators that underlie the natural balance of the post-communist period (1990-2015).

As stated in "Foreword", the paper is based on articles previously published by the same authors. Thus, the first part of the book, devoted to the period 1948-1989, is a development of an article in 2014, with the exception that the updated version provides an ample space for the study of the social and political aspects that determined the demographic phenomena, the justification being that during the communist period major social decisions have been made and that such things have to be known by the general public. The intention of the authors is not to make valuable judgments about the actions of the political environment from the communist-era on the society, but on the basis of existing data to provide real information, maintaining a more balanced and objective attitude, sometimes in contradiction with some popular clans in the Romanian society. The elements analyzed by the authors in this first part are the communist family policies, mortality and health policies, the numerical evolution of the population and its structural changes (ethnic structure, rural-urban migration, seen as the main component of the internal migration of the population during the communist period, aging population).

The second part of the book includes an analysis of demographic phenomena from the post-communist period, the authors point out that after 1989 there were no major political measures influencing the demographic behavior of the Romanians, with the exception of the abolition of communist legislation on this issue since 1989.

The more recent measures implemented by the political environment were limited and were the subject of other research not included in this paper. The demographic indicators used in this part of the paper are: numerical evolution of the Romanian population, mortality, fertility (this indicator is devoted to a consistent chapter, analyzing the context that determines the fertility - the ethnic structure of the population, the professional and the educational one), divorce and marriage.

The issue of migration is punctually reached at the end of the book, the authors point out that it is not possible to make forecasts on the future of Romania's demography as a result of the major differences between the elements taken into account: according to the population by residence, Romania lost about years million in the last 25 years, while according to the resident population the loss is much higher, between 3.3-4.3 million people or even more. One of the merits of the present book is to provide information on the demographic evolution of the communist period, a more difficult period to study because of the reliability of the sources.

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