

## PSYCHOLOGICAL WAR against Hungarians in Romania

### As in the Romanian Printed Press

#### General Introduction

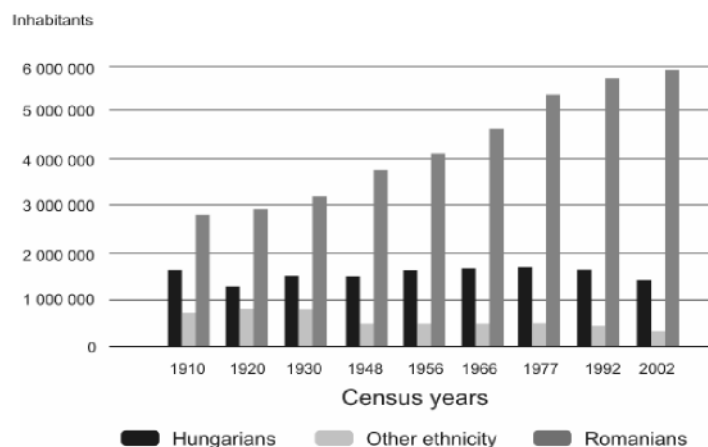
A known mechanism of the Romanian expansion policy is the Daco-Roman continuity theory. To build an irredentist policy on a basically false theory, together with the necessary propaganda leads to the dangerous situation, that they feed a lasting and shatterproof false ideology into the Romanian people. This false ideology of superiority, together with the Hungarian scapegoating phenomenon, causes mass hysteria reminiscent to the Nazi persecution of Jews.

It can be stated, that there is a psychological war carried out against the Hungarians in Romania: i.e. they are not only considered as citizens of non-equal rights – but enemies.

The reasons for anti-Hungarian fear and hate is not the invented “Hungarian century old suppression”, a tiresome cliché as spread by the Romanian combating propaganda, but a vision, as included into the Romanian Constitution’s Article 1, (1) “**Romania is a sovereign, independent, unitary and indivisible National State**”. The peace treaties that attached Transylvania to Romania (1920 and 1948) granted broad rights to the Transylvanian ethnic minorities. Romania assumed full responsibility to provide these rights. These international obligations have never been observed by the Romanian state.

On the contrary, governmental oppression of ethnic minorities has manifested itself in a “population purge” of historic proportions. This has resulted in a decrease of non-Romanian inhabitants of Transylvania, from about 50% (1918), to less than 25% (2002). In fact, most of the German minority (which at the outset numbered around 800,000 souls) as well as the majority of the Jewish people who survived world war 2nd, were allowed to leave the country for a hard-currency exit fee during the Ceausescu dictatorship. Today, only around 20,000 live in Romania. As a result of the depletion of the ethnic groups mentioned, the entire weight of the Romanian nationalist policy fell upon the traditionally well organized co-existing ethnic group left, namely the Hungarian people.

The transformation of Transylvania's ethnic composition



## Combating Methods of the Romanian Printed Media

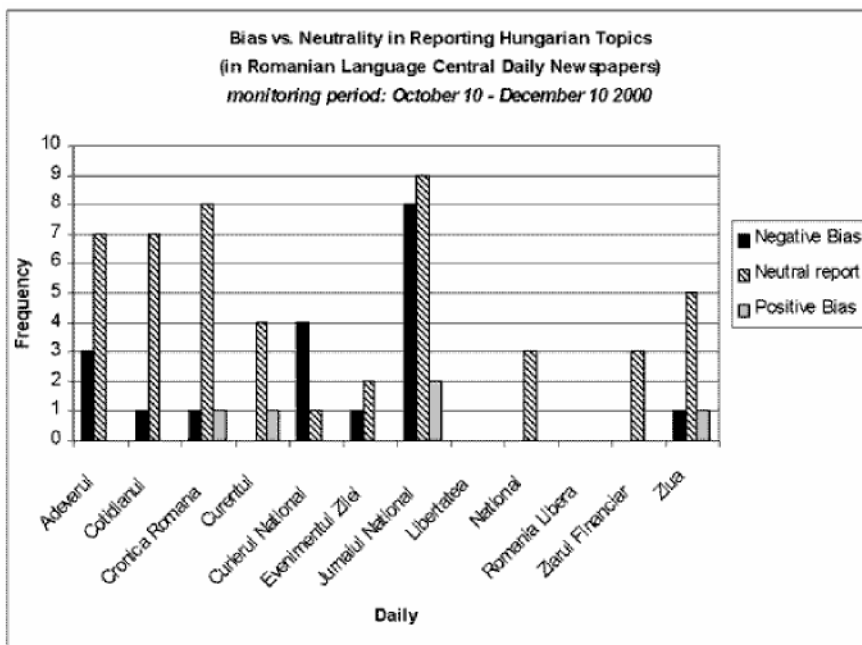
The anti-Hungarian procedures developed during the system of Ceausescu (e.g.: preceding 1989 Romanian revolution communist newspapers labeled the Timisoara/Temesvár protestors as group of Hungarian ‘hooligans’, etc.) have been mixed with fascist, chauvinistic and national elements in the transition period since 1990. Mass-manipulating and/or anti-Hungarian examples in the Romanian press occur daily in abundance. No wonder that Hungarians of Romania feel uncomfortable. As a consequence of discrimination, humiliation and abuse, the Hungarian community of Transylvania lost about 200,000 people between 1992 and 2002.

The adjectives and epithets used in the *hate speeches* of the “**extremist**” Romanian press (*Tricolorul, Romania Mare, Est Vest*) in connection with Hungarians are telling examples: [Hungarians] are ‘extremists’, ‘evil minded’, ‘merciless chauvinists’, ‘Turanian beasts’, ‘drunk hordes of Asia’, ‘rabid dogs’; ‘their requests are disguised forms of irritation and blackmail’; ‘they are unclean’, etc. The political leaders of Hungarians in Transylvania are labeled as being: ‘bribers of the international press’, ‘impostors’, ‘instigators’; ‘László Tőkés wears handgun under his cassock’ and ‘lies daily at least three times’, etc.

To manipulate the *feeling of danger*, it is sufficient to develop in the masses the *belief of danger*, that the danger becomes real, against which *active defense is required*. Thus for maintaining a permanent anti-Hungarian pogrom-atmosphere in Romania, it is sufficient to continuously and knowingly use the aforementioned anti-Hungarian adjectives and epithets in various newspapers.

Besides the “Hungarian-neutral” press, the style of reporting (frequencies of positive/negative bias and/or unbiased) of “**moderate**” main line print media however reflects a worrying picture too, since they are to be characterized as follow:

1. The press of **open anti-Hungarian instigation** (e.g.: *Jurnalul Național, Adevărul, Curierul National*, etc) reflects biased and stereotyped attitude in reporting (articles or editorials),
2. The press of **latent anti-Hungarian instigation** (e.g.: *Cotidianul, Cronica Romana, Ziua*, etc) mixes neutral information and bias.



“Actually, it became almost a common knowledge to say that *Jurnalul Național* and *Adevărul* are ‘champions’ of the nationalistic discourse in the post-communist Romanian print media.

*This aspect becomes more relevant if taking into consideration that Adevărul has the highest readership in the Romanian print media.”*

Source:  
Marius Cosmeanu,  
Media Monitoring Agency  
[www.mma.ro](http://www.mma.ro)

## Recent Wave of Anti-Hungarian Verbal Aggression

Ethnic prejudices, anti-Hungarian incitement, political intimidation and ethnic instigation dominated the Romanian political and public life in March 2006. The verbal aggression regarding the draft of minorities, the re-establishment of the Hungarian university, the education of Csángó Hungarian children, etc, was culminating around 15 March, the national holiday of Hungarians, and the demands for self-governance of Hungarians of Transylvania.

On 7 March 2006, *Smaranda Enache*, co-president of Pro Europe League, demanded politicians, journalists and civil society to take responsibility for pluralist democracy values and stick together against "the trans-party nationalist coalition about to spoil accession to the EU." The Pro Europe League official expressed concern about the nationalist turn menacing Romanian politics. Rompres Agency cited Smaranda Enache saying a trans-party nationalist coalition was born and it resembled the one in 1990-1996, although there was less than one year left till Romania's accession to the EU.

Smaranda Enache claimed this **coalition's intention was to undermine the European Commission's reports and wanted Romania seized with panic and suspicion**. She explained: "The Hungarian (Magyar) issue is hot again, even if in the last decade both Hungarians and Romanians have managed to prove historical reconciliation and strategic partnership." The Pro Europe League official opined the coalition used lies and false information in an attempt to persuade electors that Romania was in danger of dismembering.

Meanwhile, newspapers in Bucharest published stories about alleged paramilitary organizations (!) trained in Hungary (!) to fight for the autonomy (!) of Szekler Land, like the Szekler Legion (Legio Siculis).

In Targu Mures/Marosvásárhely, the police confiscated an issue of the Transylvanian periodical *Európai Idő* after it published a supposed version of the proclamation at the 15 March Szekler assembly, for threatening national security (!). The Pro Europe League and the Media Monitoring Agency protested against this kind of authority abuse.

## An Illustration for Anti-Hungarian Propaganda via the Press (March 2006)

An insight is provided below on how the Romanian press is developing in the masses the *belief of danger* and the *anti-Hungarian hostility* by spreading lies and bizarre insinuations.

As example, not an extremist or an openly anti-Hungarian newspaper, but an editorial of the press of *latent anti-Hungarian* instigation **was bolded**.

The *Ziua* newspaper published the following editorial dating 13 March 2006, signing *Sorin Rosca Stanescu*:

“ON HOW TO NEUTRALIZE THE **SZEKLER** [-HUNGARIAN] BOMB

*Motto: No **criminal blackmail** will ever bring me to silence.*

As natural, we hesitated long before deciding to unveil the political and **paramilitary preparations** the Szekler were making in order **to grab autonomy by unconstitutional means**. At first **we were afraid** we would **exaggerate things** and **amplify a dangerous phenomenon** in our wish to keep readers informed. Still we decided it was better to unveil the information we had. Somebody had to cause the untying of the Gordian knot. The events taking place in the last days since we published those **hot pieces of information** are very interesting and worthy of comment. Apart from the Szekler leaders, there are four characters on which these events have focused: Traian Basescu, Calin Popescu Tariceanu, Corneliu Vadim Tudor and Béla Markó. Each of them has responded differently. As this is **a real first-hand provocation** of national interest, we can already decide grades for these politicians.

Just as usually, Corneliu Vadim Tudor has been far-fetched and unwise. He has **threatened to assault** the Szekler County with help from an **army of PRM** ("Great Romania" Party) adepts. If he does it, at the **very heart of Romania** there might start unprecedented disputes. And **violent response can amplify violence as menace**. But this is indeed a hot issue that needs a legal solution. And Vadim's view is as unconstitutional as dangerous. He needs to be reminded the law bans plan to get a group of people start open conflict against another group. It also bans incitement to such a **crime against national security**. We needn't even talk about the consequences of such a solution as far as **Romania's international image** is concerned. If Vadim carried out his threat, **EU institutions** and governments of the world's states would only conclude that in Romania there is **dissolution of authority** and **state institutions are powerless**, since people had to **do justice for themselves**. This is why Vadim's grade would be that of a person who has gone astray.

Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania president, Béla Markó hasn't tried to exaggerate the **danger coming from the Szeklers**, but he has neither tried to belittle it. He has been wise. He has drawn an unhesitating line between DAHR and the political initiatives of the Szekler and he has actually isolated László Tőkés.

Both as a Prime Minister and as president of the National Liberal Party, Calin Popescu Tariceanu was strangely superficial in his analysis of the **Szekler threat**, at least at first. It's either he lacked information about the **real preparations** to proclaim territorial and institutional autonomy or his estimation of the events was wrong. What is certain is that the first opinion on the issue that he expressed was meant to calm spirits down, but it only made people more **confused about March 15** [National holiday of all Hungarians in remembrance of the 1848 freedom fight]. Unfortunately for him, because of the mumbling Calin Popescu Tariceanu is next to Corneliu Vadim Tudor and they can't pass the exam.

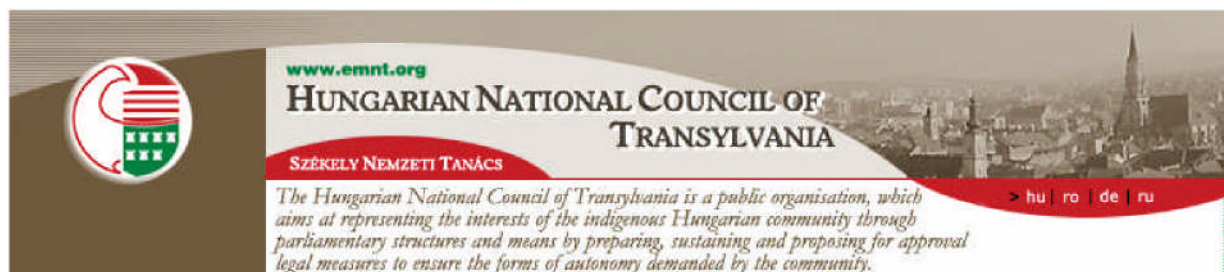
What about the president of Romania? Has he behaved accordingly? Traian Basescu has been relentless and sharp about this **first-hand provocation of national interest**: the **Szekler bomb**. His public message has certainly been appropriate: a wise and firm warning for the initiators of the **Szekler adventure**. As for a different matter, on which I have only got official information in brief, my conclusion is Basescu has been skilful. He has seen the analyses and scenarios together with representatives of state institutions. They can mean real help to the mechanism of **defense against eventual secession**. There have probably been several high level meetings with Basescu playing the first violin, as appropriate for a head of state. What he hasn't managed to do so far, or maybe he hasn't even tried to, which would be even more regrettable, is to put an end to or at least temper the PRM leader's hysterics.

The **counterattack** against the **Szekler defiance** has just begun. The main protagonists have been **pointing swords** to the shield. In two days' time we will know whether state institutions have managed to **prevent** maj or events or no. Therefore until then Basescu's grade is good. But that of the Prosecutor's Office is bad. A long time ago the **Romanian Secret Service** and the **press informed** the latter about **deeds proving menace against national security**. But the **Prosecutor's Office has done nothing**, for reasons we don't know about."

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Transylvanian Monitor is available at:

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



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