

THE STORY OF THE NATIONAL HOLIDAY IN ROMANIA



Romania's National Day, or Great Union Day, is an annual public holiday on December 1st to celebrate the unification of the Romanian provinces.



On this day in 1918, during the reign of King Ferdinand I, Romania made of Moldavia and Wallachia at the time - was united with Transylvania, Bessarabia, Banat and the Maramures area.

The unification happened in Alba Iulia, where the unification declaration was read during a public event, attended by over 100,000 Romanians.

Romania of that time also included the Republic of Moldavia

(Bessarabia), Banat and the Bessarabia area, which are no longer part of today's Romania. In 1918, with this unification, Romania almost doubled its territory.

Later in 1940, Romania lost Bessarabia and Bucovina, after the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact, the two regions being annexed to the Soviet Republic. The north of Transylvania went to Hungary, while the south of Dobruja (the Bessarabia area) went to Bulgaria.

December 1st is a free day in the country and in the capital city, Bucharest, it is usually celebrated with a military parade. Elsewhere in the country, various events are organized, commemorating the Romanians who died during the First World War.