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HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

THE HISTORY OF EDUCATION IN ROMANIA

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The history of **Romania**'s education system starts with the creation of the state itself. The time before **1800** was marked by limited education opportunities. The creation of **the modern Romanian state** at the beginning of the **19th century** leads to an increase of interest in the education field as well as the creation of an education system. After **the Second World War** the liberal education system was changed to a **Soviet-type** one.

Education before 1800:

- This period of time was ruled by a religious education. Everything was taught in **Latin** and **Greek**. In the **Moldavia** region a **Latin School** (*Schola latina*) was founded at Cotnari.
- In **1634** the **Vasilian College** was founded at **Jassy (Iași)** by **Vasile Lupu**, the *Voievode of Moldavia* at that time.
- In **Wallachia**, the Higher education started at the ending of the **17th century**. **Constantin Brâncoveanu**, the *Prince of Wallachia*, at that time founded the **Princely Academy of Bucharest** in **1694**. *Education was only available in Greek.*
- The **First Romanian School** was founded at **Brașov** on the grounds of **St. Nicholas' Church** and dates back to **1760**; it now serves as a museum.
- The majority of schools from that period of time were built on the grounds of churches and monasteries.



The First Romanian School



Education in the the 19th century and in the time of the ruler Alexandru Ioan Cuza:

- **Alexandru Ioan Cuza**, the ruler of the ***Romanian Principalities - Moldavia and Wallachia*** (reigned from **1859 to 1866**) adopted the First Law of Public Instruction – the first modern law of the **Romanian** education which proposed a modern way of functioning and organization of the educational system. According to the law, the school cycle was divided in three: **primary, secondary and Higher education.**

- The first institution of Higher education in the **Romanian Principalities** was the **University of Iași**, founded on **26th October 1860**.
- The **University of Bucharest** appeared four years later after the founding of the one in **Iași**. It was founded by Royal decree given by the Prince in **1864**.
The first faculties of the university at that time were:
 - ✓ ***The National School of Medicine and Pharmacy*** established by the physician *Carol Davila* in **1855** (later in **1859** it became the ***Faculty of Medicine***)
 - ✓ ***Faculty of Law (1859)***
 - ✓ ***Faculty of Letters (1863)***

University of Bucharest



University of Iași (Alexandru Ioan Cuza University)



Education in the Communist regime:

- The **Communist regime** started caring for education only after realising that the economic and military evolution depended on the intellectual progress of creating capable intellectuals that could solve the problems.
- Students in uniforms, the photo of **Comrade Ceaușescu** above the teacher's desk, spelling books with patriotic texts, sessions of field work, duties and obligations for children. That is how school worked in the **Communist Era**.
- The school year was divided in trimesters. The schooling system was structured in **primary school** (first to fourth grades), **secondary school** (fifth to eighth grades), **first stage of high school** (ninth and tenth grades) and **the second stage of high school** (eleventh and twelfth grades). After the **8th grade** the students were taking an exam to enter high school. The high school years ended with the **Baccalaureate exam**.

- Unlike the system from the democratic time, in the **Communist** days the school books had a single format and were given for free to the students for the entire schooling years.
- Ever since **Kindergarten**, the regime imposed a mandatory uniform. Besides that, no student was allowed on the school grounds without the **matricula** (a little piece of cloth on which the school name and registration number of the pupil were written).

A Communist classroom



*Kids from school
in the Communist regime*

Education in Romania today:

- Since the **Romanian Revolution in 1989**, the educational system was in a continuous process of reorganization.
- The **Romanian educational system** is regulated by the ***Ministry of National Education***.
- There is **Elementary school** (it includes primary school – 1st grade to 4th grade and **secondary school or gymnasium** – 5th grade to 8th grade), **High school** (9th to 12th grade) and **Higher education** (bachelor studies, master studies and doctoral studies).
- **Kindergarten** is optional under the age of six; **compulsory schooling** usually starts at age 6, with the "preparatory school year" and it is **mandatory until the 10th grade**.
- The educational system offers the following **diplomas**: graduation of elementary school, high school diploma linked to the Bacalaureate exam, bachelor degree, master degree and doctoral degree.



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