

TRACING OUR EUROPEAN SPIRIT

Poland

May 2019

**The
Totalitarian
Communist
Regime în
Romania în
the 80s**





A defining feature of totalitarian regimes is the systematic violation of citizens' rights and freedoms.

The Communist regime in power in Romania, led by Nicolae Ceausescu between 1965 and 1989, established full control over society.



The state interfered in all areas of life, including in the private life of the Romanians, which affected the quality of life in a very negative way.

Signs of a totalitarian state

The existence of a special ideology: a set of ideas that justify the regime	Presence of monopolization of power: one-party dictatorship, cult of personality, propaganda, party elite	Militarization of society	Terror is a domestic policy	Nationalization of society: control over the economy, control of political life, control of private life.
---	---	---------------------------	-----------------------------	---



A defining feature of totalitarian regimes is the systematic violation of citizens' rights and freedoms.

The main tool used for this purpose was the political police or the Security, which, having a massive network of agents and informers, succeeded in infiltrating in all levels of the Romanian society.

The Security was "the Big Brother" who saw and heard everything the Romanians were saying in their bedrooms, on the phone or even in the street.



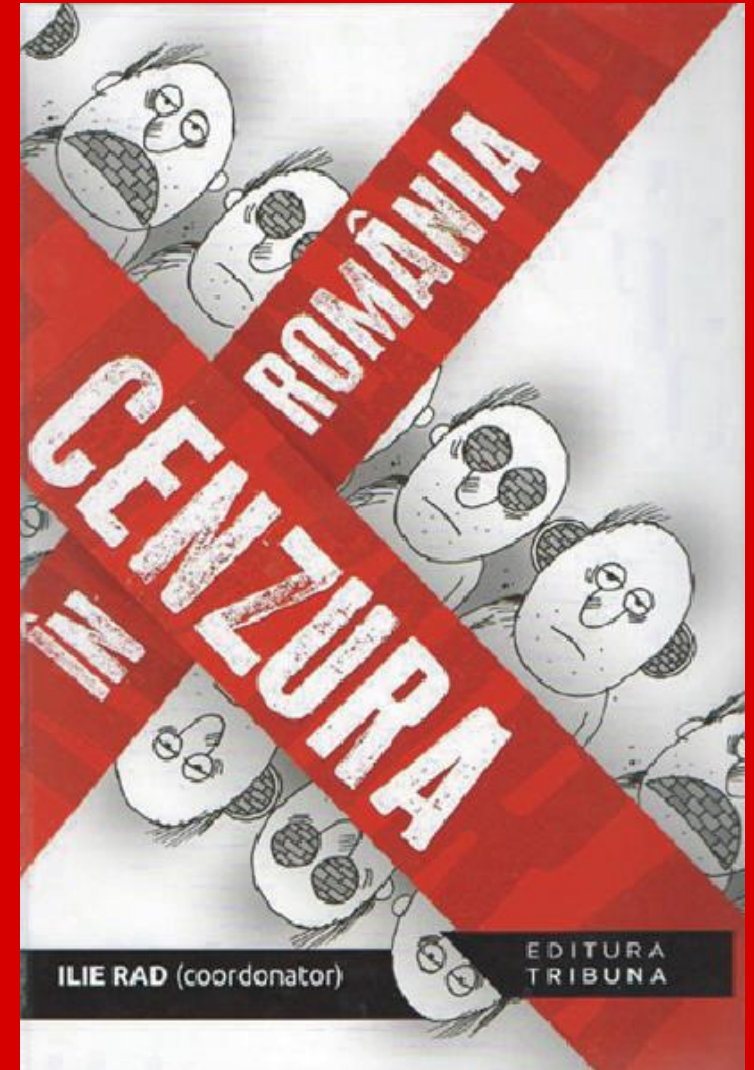
The Security, political police, kept the population under surveillance in various ways: informers, mail violation, stakes out and chasings.



Ways of violating citizens' rights and freedoms.



Ceausescu's regime systematically violated the human rights and suppressed the freedom of speech in all forms. Culture was under strict control and severe censorship was applied.





Ways of violating citizens' rights and freedoms.

During Ceușescu's regime, Romania faced a special problem, namely the continuing decline in the standard of living, especially in the 1980s. The vast majority of agro-food products were exported to cover the country's external debt. In Romania, shops lacked basic food and in many counties of the country bread, milk, oil, and sugar were rationalized.

C.S.M. Alimentara
Brașov/TEA Nr. 4
Trim. III/
UNITATEA-Nr. 4
Familia
cu domiciliul în str. nr.
compusă din 4 persoane.
Prezenta este netransmisibilă.
Pierderea ei anulează dreptul de a ridica piinea.

SEPTEMBRIE

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30		

AUGUST

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	

IULIE

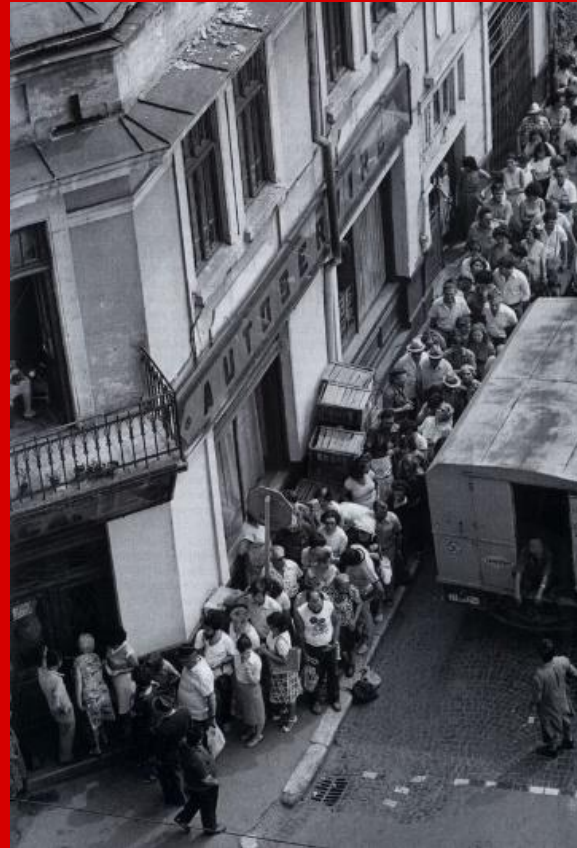
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	

Valabil numai cu ștampila. I.P.Bv. — 50.318/88 120.000 ex.



Ways of violating citizens' rights and freedoms.

As meat products, in shops there were only frozen fish, cans and soy salami. For people to buy eggs or dairy products (butter, cheese, sour cream) they had to wait for hours in endless queues, and so did they for non-local fruit (bananas, oranges, lemons, pineapple).





Ways of violating citizens' rights and freedoms.

Worse than this, the distribution of the thermal agent (heat) was also rationalised during winter, as well as the hot water and the electricity. Starting 1985 gasoline was rationalised, too. Electricity to the population was interrupted several times a day without a programme or without the household consumers being announced in advance.

The population was urged to save electricity by unplugging refrigerators in winter and by not using the washing machine and other household appliances as well as lifts.





Ways of violating citizens' rights and freedoms.

The health state of the population worsened considerably, along with the decline in the quality of the medical act, the massive reduction of medicine imports, the increased mortality and massive infection with the HIV virus, especially in institutionalized children.





Ways of violating citizens' rights and freedoms.

The demographic policy of Ceausescu's regime aimed at the rapid growth of the population.

The regime insisted on the idea that having many children was a patriotic duty.

The abortion was banned by decree in 1966, increasing mortality among women who practised it illegally.





Ways of violating citizens' rights and freedoms.

The right to being informed was totally disobeyed.

In 1981 Romania was the only state in Europe which broadcast in black and white.

After 1985, the Romanian Television programme drastically reduced to 2 hours of broadcasting a day, hours which were dedicated to the adulation of Ceausescu couple.





Ways of violating citizens' rights and freedoms.

The right to move freely was not respected.

Romanian citizens were forbidden any contact with foreigners, especially with the West which was considered "a world of inequality, robbery and exploitation".

They could not travel abroad except for the communist bloc countries.

They did not have the right to correspond with Western citizens or to possess any foreign currency.



© picture-alliance/dpa



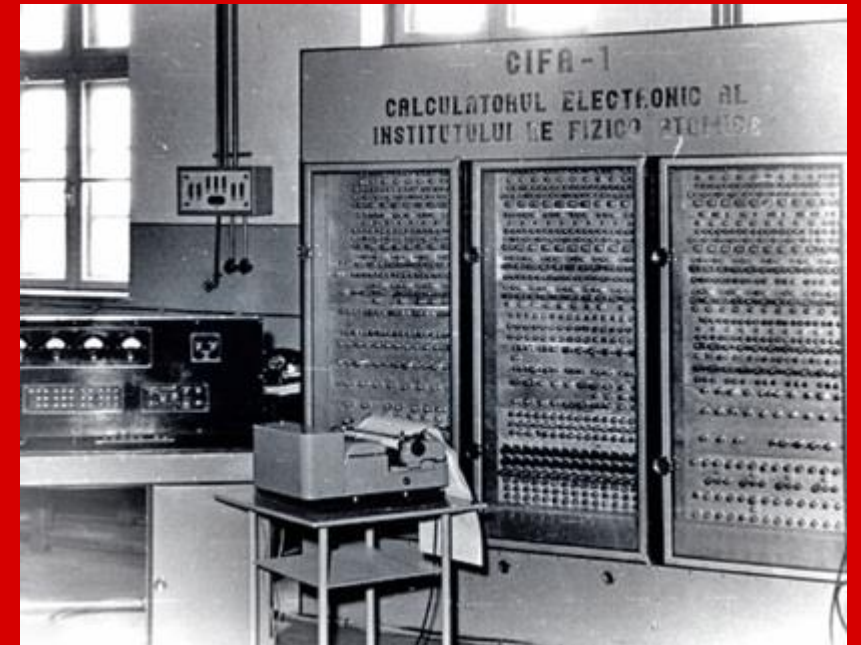


Ways of violating citizens' rights and freedoms.

The telephone network was one of the weakest in Europe: in 1989, for a population of 23 million people there were only 700,000 telephone stations.



Computers were almost inexistent, and those in the state-owned enterprises were used just in the production process.





Ways of violating citizens' rights and freedoms.

In order to strengthen the control over society, Ceausescu regime intensified the propaganda of the Romanian Communist Party and the activity of the party members, who were concerned especially about bringing as many pupils, students and military as possible to Nicolae Ceausescu's homage.



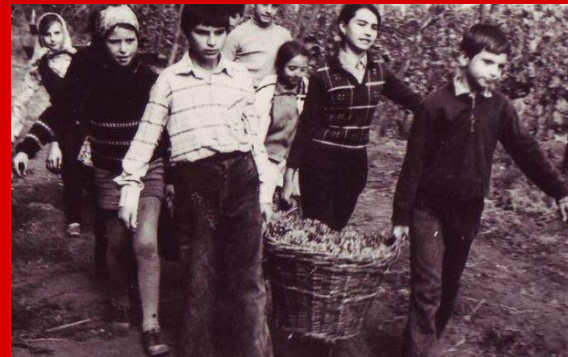
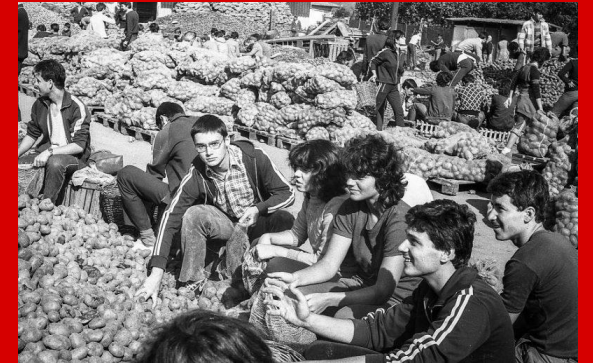
In
In

In Communist Romania, so-called "patriotic" work is frequently practiced, pupils, students, soldiers being sent to agricultural work for a few weeks a year, during which they did not



Ways of violating citizens' rights and freedoms.

In Communist Romania, so-called "patriotic" work is frequently practiced, pupils, students, soldiers being sent to agricultural work for a few weeks a year, during which they did not attend courses or their usual activities.



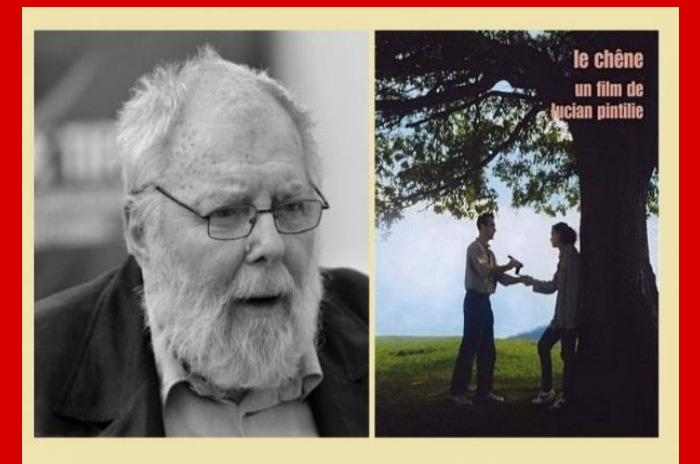
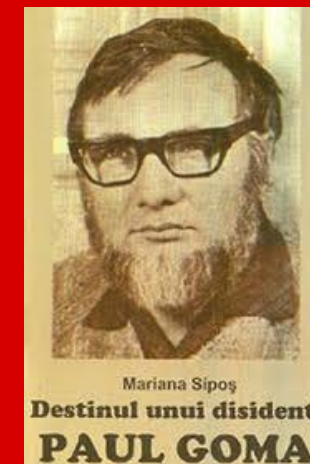
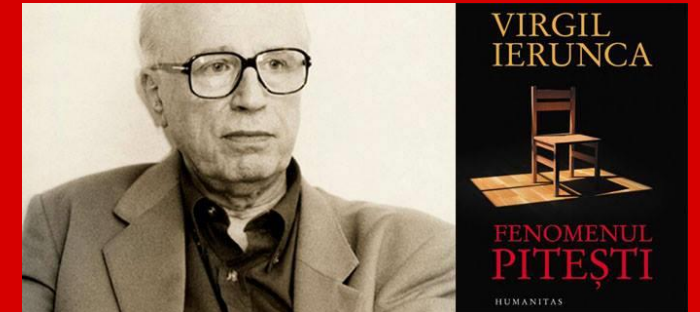
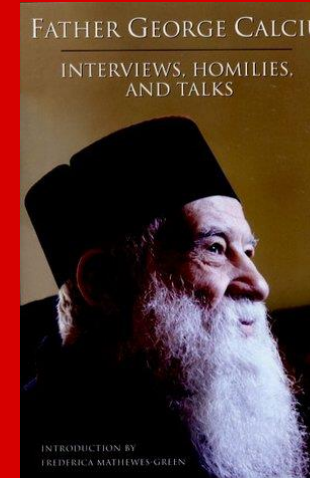


Ways of violating citizens' rights and freedoms.

For those who dared to protest, especially the intellectuals, harassment and persecution were common practice.

Many of those who disturbed the regime through their art were forced to emigrate to the West.

The exiles constantly exposed the abuses, the breaking of the law, the violation of the human rights, and especially the illegal arrests, the staged trials, the individual assassinations, the genocide and the crimes against humanity committed by the communists.





Ways of violating citizens' rights and freedoms.

Many Romanian journalists and intellectuals in exile collaborated or worked for Western radio stations (Radio Free Europe, BBC, Voice of America, Deutsche Welle, Radio France Internationale), where people could hear the truth about the communist regime in Romania and in the other states, but also news about what was happening in the free world.





Ways of violating citizens' rights and freedoms.

The situation in Romania regarding the human rights violation made many citizens look for emigration abroad (to Western Europe, USA, Canada) in different ways: requesting political asylum on different occasions, with people of another nationality, family reunions and even the illegal crossing of the border.

Romanian refugees deserve recognition

The border between Romania and Yugoslavia has become the bloodiest border in Europe.

According to information released by the International Human Rights Association in Frankfurt, at least 400 people who tried to flee Romania have been shot dead in 1988. In addition to this, it is believed that a large number drowned while trying to cross the Danube.

As IGMF members discovered during investigations of the Yugoslav-Romanian border region, bodies of unknown dead refugees have frequently been washed ashore on the Yugoslav side of the Danube.

According to the IGMF, the number of persons trying to flee Romania has increased since fall. The Romanian border troops enforced the order to shoot without warning. The Romanian border troops have also used bloodhounds, which often seriously injure refugees after their arrest.

Persons who have been detained or sent back to Romania from Yugoslavia are usually sentenced to up to two years of imprisonment or forced labor camps.

The IGMF deplors the fact that many refugees are not recognized as such by the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, or that they are sent back by the Yugoslav police before they can contact the U.N. Commissioner.

—Frankfurter Allgemeine

