

Russia, the Romanian Principalities, and the emancipation movements of the Balkan Orthodox peoples (late 18th century – early 19th century)

Prof. Cristian Ploscaru, Ph.D

Faculty of History, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University,

Iași, Romania

In my presentation, I will address the main topic – **the interference between Russia's policy in the Black Sea region and the emancipation movements in the Balkans** – from the perspective of two aspects that have been central to my research in recent years:

1. The political and juridical status of the Romanian Principalities and some of the distinctive features of the Old Regime in Moldavia and Wallachia had a direct and profound influence on both Russia's policy and the emancipation movements of the Serbs and Greeks, the first one started in 1804, the other in 1821.

2. Russia's policy of transfer of the limited autonomy regime to the territories bordering the Ottoman Empire, carried out in several phases – from the Cossack oblasts to the oblasts on the northern coast of the Black Sea, then to Bessarabia and on to Moldavia, Wallachia, and Serbia – played an essential role in stimulating the emancipation movements of the Orthodox subjects of the Ottoman Empire and in the genesis of the Organic Regulations regime in Moldavia and Wallachia.