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Doctoral thesis

**Demographic and social-economic realities in the Cehu Silvaniei region
(1848-1950)**

SUMMARY

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Key words: Cehu Silvaniei region/net, Sălaj county, mortality, birth, occupations, agriculture, Gheorghe Pop de Băsești.

ARGUMENT

The approach to this research theme, which is aimed at a topic of regional history, is motivated by the desire to rebuild the demographic and social-economic realities for a clearly defined administrative unit. It is a new issue of approach, as far as the space dimension is concerned, because the vast majority of such work carried out until now, they focused on larger territorial-administrative units such as the county, the historical region or the whole national territory. We consider this investigation to be appropriate because, through territorial-administrative units, economic development frameworks have been set out, and not only, they are also defining the development of net communities in Cehu Silvaniei region.

Also, in Romanian historiography, the role of these administrative institutions, called nets, prices or circles, was usually neglected to the detriment of the largest ones, such as county/county or the smallest ones, the localities themselves. They have played an important role in history, that of 'binding' between counties or counties and small localities, making an important contribution to the development of the areas of the suborder. As research has been plated into an administrative area, we have encountered some difficulties in accurately reproducing its size, but its appearance in many statistics, have made my work easier and I have managed to look into it in its entirety for the whole period that covers the years 1848-1950.

The proposed aim of this investigation is to research historical realities in demographic and social-economic terms, for the temporary period between the 1848 Revolution and the definitive establishment of the Communist regime (1950). The challenge remains for the researcher because the analysis of the changes over 103 years, at a time when demographic, social and economic phenomena are in constant dynamics, require complex attention due to the multitude of sources and their diversity. Thorough analysis in the three directions and comparison or similarity to other nets of the county, county or other similar localities require for the researcher a closer attention in articulating the scientific approach.

In order to thoroughly reconstruct the demographic evolution of the inhabitants of the Cehu Silvaniei net I have studied the parish registers for baptism, married and dead people from eight parishes and six localities. This period is over a century (1848-1950) and they were chosen according to the demographic and religious criteria, two being reformats and six greek catholic. For the social-economic part I supported my approach mainly on the official statistics of the Austro-Hungarian state and after 1918 of the Romanian state. From a demographic and economic point of view, in the Cehu Silvaniei net, there were four major towns and they formed local development poles during this period. Cehu Silvaniei, a net center from the Middle Ages, fair, and then commune, which will develop during this period, will become the center to which the localities of this area are to be gravitated. Hodod, the medieval-era major fair and the major Wesselény domain, has progressed less due to its proximity to the net center. Basesti, which became an important locality for Romanians, because this place was inhabited by Gheorghe Pop de Băsești, will develop economically by setting up a bank and a fair during the interwar period. Ulmeni, will prosper after the railway

was built at the end of the 19th century and in the inter-war and post-war period when small factories are set up and become a net center for a short period of time (1946-1950).

The reason for the subject is also a personal one. As I lived in one of the villages of Cehu Silvaniei region and currently live in Cehu Silvaniei, I consider it also a moral duty of the undersigned to investigate the past of this administrative unit, 'underestimated', in fact, by historical writing. I call it 'underestimated' as after the administrative law in 1968, the net localities were divided between Sălaj, Maramureș and Satu Mare counties, so historians largely avoided investigating the past of the area.

HISTORIOGRAPHY

The historiography of the research theme is a little under-researched one, because it has not been a general approach so far. It is often integrated in the history of the countship, county or separately approached for a particular city.

Information from the mid 19th century on the net localities of Cehu Silvaniei are recorded in *The Middle Solnoc* at 1864. *The Questionnaires of academician Pesty Frigyes*, published years ago. These ethnographic and economic data contain residents' accounts of the economy of the coddrain settlements. The first historical writing, including the Cehu Silvaniei net, is supposed to belong to Gheorghe Pop de Băsești, and is in the paper *A fleeting look at the political-national history of the Romanians in Selegiu*, published by the *Federation* magazine in 1868. It is a study highlighting the length of the Sălaj area, as well as the difficulties of the emancipation of Romanians in the area after the 1848 revolution. The same author, through the work of the field economy, makes a description of the Codru area agriculture and gives precious advice to the peasants about modern farming practices.

The data on population evolution is published by the Hungarian Central Statistical Office in Budapest. Statistical summaries are compiled in numerous volumes in the collections of Magyar Statisztikai Évkööv (old and new series) and Magyar Statisztikai Közlemények, which publishes the census data for the years 1869, 1880, 1890, 1900 and 1910. It also publishes other information for the period between the achievement of the Austro-Hungarian dualism and the end of the Great War, on demographic phenomena such as birth and mortality, causes of death or the structure of the population employed within the main economic sectors.

A complex radiograph of the economic situation of the population in the administrative unit studied is provided by the 1895 agricultural census. Partially published by sociologist and demography Traian Rotariu, the two volumes are rich in information on the economic and social state of the Cehu Silvaniei region.

Further information on crops and the cultivation of agricultural land is contained in Hungarian statistics Hivatalos Statistikai Közlemények. Agricultural yields between 1869 and 1872, their organization by rotation, and productivity on an area of a cadastral iugăr (0,58 ari) give us an image of agricultural yields. Also a description of Salaj's economic characteristics is provided by Keleti Karoli. In his paper, he presents the backward economic state of the peasant in the living country, his limited earnings possibilities and his behavior vis-à-vis these historical realities. Information on the credit system, the emergence of first institutions and consumer companies are mentioned in the volume of Magyar Statystikai Közlemények, Uj folyamin 1894, which is very important if we think that the foundations of the banking system

in our area are then laid. Other data on agricultural production, for 1901 only, were published in the volume *Magyar Statistickai Közlemények, új sorozat* since 1903. As shown in the net, these crops show the progress of land cultivation and the yield that agricultural households have reached at the beginning of the last century.

The following more consistent information, about the settlements in the net of the Czech Republic of Silvaniei, is reported by Petri Mór in the book *Szilágy vármegye monographiája*, which appeared in four volumes in Budapest between 1900 and 1906. Information on administrative organization, as well as demographic, ethnographic, political and economic data on Salaj county, and by default in Cehu Silvaniei surroundings. Such historical information is not so consistent, we can find it in the 1908 "Monographic drawing of Sălaj", written by Dionie Stoica and Petru Lazar at Simleul Silvaniei.

As for banking information, very rich data can be found in the economic magazine and the Annual of Romanian banks, both printed in Sibiu. The credit institutions and cooperatives published here the annual balance sheets, their members and employees, and the decisions of the general annual meetings. The records of these data show us the emergence and evolution of this new economic sector, as well as the difficulties of capital accumulation, the means of borrowing and storage, the banking operations needed to meet the cash needs of the people in the net under Codru area.

Historical writings from the interwar period are being continued by publishing more detailed studies for almost every economic sector. The villages of Salaj gathered information about their past in the Golden Book of Salaj County, where the main achievements after the Great Union are recorded. A monograph dedicated to the great national patriot Gheorghe Pop de Băsești is the book of priest Ioan Georgescu called *Pop George de Băsești. 60 years of the national battles of Transylvanian Romanians*, first published in Oradea in 1935. About the personalities of the historical Sălaj from the 18th century to the year 1938, Ioan Ardeleanu Senior edited *People in Sălaj. Moments in the national battles of the living Romanians*. He emphasizes in his studies the role of the church and secular elites in achieving the great national ideal, but also their efforts in economic terms to the Romanian continuity over these centuries.

As for the demographic size of the work, complex information can be found in the first census volume in 1930. The merits of its implementation lie also in the wealth of information provided by the reviewers. Data are recorded for each city, but also for the entire net, both in terms of demographic phenomena (birth rate, mortality, natural development, marriage) as well as the structure of the population.

After the communist regime was established, much more historical information is contained, especially in its recent period. Historical works about the net localities are published by well-documented, well-established historians in the directories of the Museum in Zalău (ACTA Musei Porolissensis) and Cluj-Napoca (the Anuary of the Ethnographical Museum of Transylvania). Articles on various historical topics include aspects of demographic trends in the population, the evolution of agriculture and crafts, features of the credit system.

The period after the 1989 revolution is characterized by the multiplication of articles referring to the past of some localities in the Cehu Silvaniei net or to the entire area. The number of directories and specialist journals publishing these studies is also growing, and

they are well articulated and written according to the current requirements of the historical writing. Such studies were found in the directory of the Zalău Museum (ACTA Musei Porolissensis), of the one in Baia Mare (Marăția), Satu Mare (Satu Mare. Studies and communications), as well as the review of the Culture and Art Center of Sălaj (Silvane Notebooks).

From the perspective of historical demography, we have discovered a single study on the net population, and this refers to the share of children in Transylvania between 1857 and 1910. The number and share of children in the total population of Transylvania are thoroughly analyzed here, and in the Salaj County table, the data on children in the Cehu Silvaniei net are also recorded. Another Article on the evolution of the population structure by nationalities in Salaj, which includes net residents, is published by Ciprian-Marian Porumb-Ghiurco. He shows the weight of the nationalities in the administrative unit and shows the abuses committed by the Austro-Hungarian authorities in drawing up these documents. The doctorate paper signed by Andreea Avram-Temes also uses net localities in the research sample of the illitnes phenomenon in Sălaj. She describes the mechanisms of this demographic behavior for some of the inhabitants of the net in Codru area, showing its weight within the communities, the attitude of the communities toward illegal born children and their integration into the community.

After 1989, the partial reconstruction of the net history is also carried out by historians working in Sălaj county. For part of the current Sălaj villages of the net, Gheorghe Șișeștean carried out the study *"Traditional forms of peasant life"*, published at Silvane Notebooks Publishing House in 1999. It is a complex study based on the study of the main occupation of the peasants in the living countryside – agriculture – in the 18th to the 20th centuries. Another work of historian Marin Pop, about the personality of the Basesti Pop Elina, briefly investigates his life and achievements, an opportunity to highlight aspects of the political and cultural history of the Cehu Silvaniei region. The same author, together with Danie-Victor Sabaceag, is also publishing a volume of documents about the cities of the codres in the interwar period. In this respect, it publishes almost all the monographs for the administrative unit under study (47 localities, except for the commune of Chilința), by printing their health monographs in full, the general monographs of the Golden Book of Sălaj and the school monographs .

Other books with historical information were published on the occasion of the celebration of The Great Union Centennial. The research group formed by Dănuț Pop, Mihaela Sabou, Daniel-Victor Săbăceag, from the County Service of Sălaj National Archives, they have drawn up an impressive volume of documents called *The Great Union and Sălaj. Documentary contributions*. The 467 documents published in full, along with several dozen others including memos and articles from the press, as well as the photos and illustrations at the end of the book, it is a valuable contribution to the history of Sălaj at those times. For the net of Cehu Silvaniei there are tens of documents related to issues related to the setting up of national security guards, participation in the United Sea, the taking over of administration by the representatives of Romania, other economic and cultural issues. Another consistent book, the *Sălaj at Centennial* , contains less information about Codru area. Published in the form of a monograph, its studies represent a radiography of Sălaj in the last hundred years, it's true some of them have been republished. The collective volume *The participation of the*

inhabitants of Cehu Silvaniei net in the Great War and in the realization of the Great Union is the only work directly focused on studying an aspect of the history of this administrative unit. It brings together studies of 11 more or less well-established researchers whose studies look into the area's past in demographic, political, administrative, economic and religious terms.

The demographic dimension of the localities in this village can also be studied for this period by research into the data from the eight censuses published under the co-ordination of the sociologist and demography Traian Rotariu. Referring to the census of 1850, 1857, 1869, 1880, 1890, 1895, 1900, 1910, 1941 and more, and not only, the data being translated from German and Hungarian and now being the "golden mine" for demographic research over this period.

The ethnography works also bring a greater knowledge of the area under investigation. Concentrated on the ethnographic area, "Codru" for Romanians and "Tövishát" for Hungarians, where Cehu Silvaniei is circumscribed, researching traditions, customs, crafts and occupations. The works of the authors Kós Károli, Szentimrei Judit and Nagy Jenó, about the Hungarian folk art in Sălaj is well documented in the investigation of craftsmen, such as potting or wood processing from the Deja village. The habit of 'tors' and 'tesut' is also presented at the Hungarians in Salaj, the most researched locality in this respect being Deja. The ethnographer Camelia Burghel also publishes several studies related to the Codru area. In the book *At wedding through the villages of Sălaj*, she thoroughly investigates the tradition of this 'codru' habit at the end of the 19th and the first half of the 20th century. She researched the causes of the marriage and the entire ceremony until the end of it, and she has happily rebuilt this importance of this "mystery" in peasants' life. In another work titled *Seven days in the land of Silvaniei*, she makes an incursion into the ethnographic areas of Sălaj, briefly describing the customs and specific occupations. For the Codru area of the present county of Sălaj, the researcher describes the craftsman of the potty from the Deja village and of the funeral in several villages of the area.

Besides all aspects related to the demographic and social-economic dynamics of Cehu Silvaniei region, during our research, the investigation will also focus on the synthesis studies to frame our approach.

As for the demographic dimension of the work the working methodology is that of Louis Henry and Michel Fleury, who promotes models of the exploitation of parish registers, a model taken over by Sorina Paula Bolovan and adapted to the realities of the Transylvanian area. Unique in kind of approach, historian Ioan Bolovan's work on the demography of Transylvania between the 1848 Revolution and the Great War, delimits fundamental themes such as dynamics, migration, natural movement, marriage and family, ethnic, confessional and socio-professional structure. From the perspective of the demographic regime, Ioan Bolovan considers the period from 1880-1910 to be the stage of the first demographic transition. For these reasons, as mentioned above, I will draw up research by focusing on these models on the use of scientific methodology and the structuring of content.

Without a certain selection, we will stop at some studies from the foreign historiography in which our work was part. Martine Segalen in the study "Sociology from family", using the search for parish registers, identifies the partners' matrimonial behavior in making marriages in France. She describes the proportion of the celibate people of the 18th to 19th centuries, the age at their first marriage, the proportion of endgame and exogamous

marriages, the marriage strategies of partners. The counterbalance shows marriages in the 20th century contemporary society, which have mostly non-agricultural occupations, fewer children and increasingly making more and more use of divorce and concubine.

Another Italian historian, Massimo Livi Bacci, says in the paper on European population the demographic changes are the result of the confrontation between coercive forces (relating to the environment, understood in the broadest sense, and its resources) and the elective forces, social and cultural, linked to individual, family or collective demographic behavior. He investigates the area in which the population has evolved, diet, dealing with microbes and related diseases, demographic systems and provides some explanations for the demography of the 20th century. English Ethnologist Jack Gody, in the study on the European family is looking at the domestic group since its inception in the pre-history. He shows the evolution of the family building on the continent, as well as the influences of ancient, then medieval and modern civilizations, and, after all, the maritime behavior of the 20th century society. In another context, John Hajnal identifies two marriage models specific to Europe, the differences between them, in fact, substantiating the specific characteristics of each model. The Western model is illustrated by the high age of women and men at first marriage, as well as a substantial percentage of unmarried men and women up to 50 years, while the oriental type of marriage is characterized by a low age at first marriage and a low percentage of celibate up to 50 years. When analyzing mortality according to causes of death, Abdel R. The OMRAN, advances three phases of the epidemiological transition process. The first phase of the moths and hunger, which overlap the pre-historical, ancient and medieval era, characterized by the average life expectancy of low (20-40 years), the second one is the reduction of pandemics, Especially in western Europe, and is chronologically fit between 1650 and 1900, with life expectancy between 30-50 and the last known as degenerative diseases, which continues in the last century and in which average life expectancy gradually increases to more than 50 years.

The demographic transition in the Romanian approach postulates as fundamental the books written by Vladimir Trebici and Vasile Ghețău. Other consistent studies on the subject have published researchers Cornelia Mureșan and Ioan Bolovan. If in the latter case I referred to above, Cornelia Mureșan is by the way of both classical demographic analysis and new techniques, giving a new consistency to the analysis of the Romanian demographic transition.

As general works, indicative in the social-economic approach of research, are the volumes VII and VIII of the *'History of Romanians'*, *'History of Romania'*, *'From the History of Transylvania'* and *'History of Transylvania'*. This approach also takes the form of the work of historian Barbu Ștefănescu, who gives concrete description of the farming economy in terms of the modernity of a exchange market, of the habitat and the dwelling, of the farming technique, implicitly of the household in Crișana. Although the temporary framework is different, it provides us with relevant information on the development of agriculture before the 1848 Revolution.

Other important works on the social-economic history of Transylvania were carried out by the Cluj historians Iosif Marin Balog and Nagy Robert. Focusing on the economic development of Transylvania in the second half of the 19th century, their studies bring important contributions to the development of transport in the province, the emergence and development of non-agricultural economic branches, as well as foreign capital investments

that boost economic modernization. On the same topic, of economic history, three volumes appear under the coordination of Iosif Marin Balog, Rudolf Gräf and Ioan Lumperdean. Also, relevant studies on the occupational structure of the Transylvanian population between the 1848 Revolution and the Great War are published by Elena Crinela Holom and Ioan Bolovan.

We are convinced that every part of the work, both demographic and social-economic, could be developed into a new work; I therefore hope that in future, these subjects, which were only partially surprised here, would find historians to supplement them and to reconstitute other aspects of the history of the Cehu Silvaniei region.

Sources

The historical sources used in documenting the doctoral thesis are diverse due to the fact that we will study the demographic evolution of the population, as well as its social and economic development. For the demographic dimension of research, the basic, unprecedented sources were parish civil status registers. In this respect we studied the registers of baptism, cemeteries and deceased of eight parishes, six Greek Catholic and two reformed, grouping them into a sample of work whose purpose was to confirm or refute the demographic realities in comparison to the province of Transylvania or other studied localities. I have considered, as far as possible, that they should be complete at least between 1880 and 1950, and where there were no registers, I replaced them by studying the civil registers at the city halls where they were kept. The importance of parish registers is the almost accurate record of the three 'key moments' of human life: Baptism, marriage and death.

In addition to these new sources, we will use the censuses conducted by the authorities over all these years to clarify the various demographic phenomena. Eight censuses (1850, 1857, 1869, 1880, 1890, 1900, 1910, 1930, 1941) were carried out by the then state authorities, some of which were published in the last decades and in Romanian under the coordination of the sociologist and demography of Traian Rotariu. For the compilation of statistical summaries, we will also study the Hungarian statistics compiled in dozens of volumes in the collections of Magyar Statisztikai Évkööv (old and new series) and Magyar Statisztikai Közlemények where rich information on the net population is available regarding the population in Cehu Silvaniei region.

Other consistent data on the population of the area were identified in the *Warehouses of the Sălaj national Archives Department*. To this end I will study the *1869 Comitato Fund*, which contains for 15 localities the family sheets of the population census, and during the interwar period the *Prefecture Fund* where the sanitary monographs of the net communes are located, as well as the *National Bank of Romania Fund, Zalău branch*.

As regards the study of the social-economic realities of the administrative unit, the first of all the new sources used are the censuses recording occupations and the inventory of agricultural households. In addition to the above-mentioned population censuses, the agricultural ones from 1895 and 1948 are added, even if for the latter we only have data from other sources. *The Magyar Statisztikai Évkööv collections* (old series and new series) will also be useful to the intended approach and *Magyar Statisztikai Közlemények*, plus the volumes *Hivatalos Statisztikai Közlemények* and *Magyar Mezőgazdaság Statisztika Fejlődése S az 1895*, very rich in raw data for the industries under investigation.

We will also study other new sources in the custody of the *Sălaj national Archives County Division*. From the *Prefecture Fund of Sălaj County* we will investigate the files

including the sanitary monographs of the localities in Cehu Silvaniei net, *the Golden Book of Sălaj*, *National Bank of Romania Fund, Zalau Branch* and *the Provisional Committee (1948-1950)*. The main source of the economy in the Codru area is the fund of the two institutions *Sălaj Agricultural Chamber* and *Sălaj Chamber of Commerce and Industry*, institutions that develop these economic sectors. Other archival funds needed to study economic sectors are the *Table of taxpayers and invalids, orphans and widows of war*.

We will also identify information from new sources in various periodicals and specialized magazines. We have studied in this respect the *Economic magazine* and the *Anuar of the Romanian banks* edited in Sibiu, in order to capture the evolution of the credit system in the Cehu Silvaniei net.

As for the edited springs, I will use those that refer to the area being studied. Thus, in 1864, the questionnaires of Hungarian academician Pesty Frigyes are produced, which contain valuable information about the economic potential of the localities. Gheorghe Pop de Băsești also publishes two works about this area entitled '*One fleeting look above the political-national history of the Romanians in Selegiu (1868)*' and '*The Fied Economy*'. The following more consistent information, about the Czech mesh settlements of Silvaniei, is written by Petri Mór in book "*Szilágy vármegye monogaphiája*" appeared in four volumes in Budapest between 1900 and 1906. Another original source is the "*Monographic outline of Sălaj*" written by Dimitrie Stoica and Ioan Lazăr in 1908 at Șimleu Silvaniei. The works of the Hungarian authors on Salaj county's economy, namely Dr. Keleti Károly, with the volume "*Magyország Népeének Elelmezési Statikája Phyologiai Alapon*" (1887) and "*Antal Huszar*" (1907) respectively, will also be useful for the research.

Other edited sources will also be under consideration in order to draw up the thesis. The ethnography works of the age, especially if we take into account that they study the local habits, which change very little in this temporary period. Equally, the maps and illustrations of the age can provide us with data that will complement the documentary information.

METHODOLOGY

With the topic of research on the Cehu Silvaniei region, we aim to highlight the demographic, social and economic changes that have occurred during the 103 years. The aim of this work is to investigate demographic and social-economic developments for a clearly defined administrative unit and to answer two major questions: Which was the demographic change in the Cehu Silvaniei net population between 1848 and 1950? How did economic branches develop in this administrative unit during the chronological interval 1848-1950?

To achieve this, it will be necessary to investigate the evolution of the net population, to look at the natural movement of the inhabitants of the area, their demographic structure, and the social and economic dynamics of this country, by highlighting the growth of non-agricultural occupations, the characteristics of agriculture or other economic sectors.

Research methods are those specific to historical science. In the first part, dedicated to demographic analysis of the Cehu Silvaniei net, we used quantitative analysis of the data to track and capture the events and demographic phenomena in their evolution. To achieve the intended aim, a comprehensive analysis of the specific sources of demography is required at the end of which we can demonstrate the evolution of demographic behavior for the inhabitants of the Codru area.

In this respect, we will use as the main source of documentation the parish registers in six localities that belonged to this area. These are the municipalities: Benesat (Greek Catholic and reformed Parish), Mineu (Greek Catholic and reformed Parish), Motiș (Greek Catholic parish), Nadiș (Greek Catholic parish), Noțiș (Greek Catholic parish) and Sălățig (Greek Catholic parish).

Demography is a science closely related to statistics, which is why we are proposing tables, spreadsheets, graphs in Excel, maps, etc. for greater accuracy of data and ease of researcher work. Of course, the most overused method in historical demography is that of non nominative lewings - which will allow comparative analysis of the sampled municipalities. In the first part of the research, I will extract every year into Excel tables all newborn and baptized, each marriage and death recorded in the eight parishes during the period 1848-1950. Then I will take them for decades for each locality and for the whole research sample, and finally I will calculate them over the whole period, where research requires it. Thus, the tables will investigate demographic phenomena (birth, mortality, marriage and natural increase) and the structure of the net population, obviously also helping from other historical sources mentioned in the work.

Another method that is particularly useful for demographic research is the comparative method. To highlight similarities and differences between the localities in the working sample or between the nets of Sălaj County, a comparison of demographic values is needed. Finding similarities or differences with respect to the province of which Transylvania is a Member is another research purpose, and can only be achieved by comparing these values.

For the part dedicated to social and economic research, the most useful method is the analysis of the content of historical documents. Therefore we have investigated the archive funds in Sălaj national Archives Department, but also the edited sources such as the population censuses and agricultural or other statistical sources such as the Hungarian ones mentioned above. In this part of the paper I will also use the method of semiotic analysis of maps, illustrations and photographs of the era. Careful analysis of these has clarified issues for some economic branches, especially in the agricultural, commercial and banking sectors.

STRUCTURE

The work is divided into four large chapters, plus an introductory study and research findings. Similarly, the related literature and annexes with the numerous tables will complete the present study and provide other researchers in the area with a rich documentary material for undertaking other investigations on this subject and not only.

The first chapter presents the administrative classification of the area and the habitat of the Cehu Silvaniei net. Entitled suggestive *Territorial evolution and habitat*, shows us the administrative boundaries, which are changing due to the political evolution in the states that have held it, as well as the physical-geographical and social conditions in which the inhabitants lived. In this respect, we have reconstructed a brief history of the Middle Solnoc County, and then of the net from its appearance in the 16th century to its dissolution in 1950. Surprisingly, the history of this administrative entity has an uninterrupted life of more than five centuries. I call it surprisingly because we have not found any other studies to restore the evolution of these territorial units subordinated to the counties, and in the last years the counties.

Knowledge of the geographical environment in which the population lived is important because the man of those times was dependant, to a large extent, on the whims of nature. These geographical realities have been a rhythm for the peasant's life, "guiding" him when he had, sow or harvest. All these conditions show that the land is situated in the hill area, which is a little productive, covered mostly by forests, resulting in a greater effort toward deforestation s.a. This habitat has also influenced the construction of communication routes, settlements on river terraces or between forests, the size of their demographic size or of building materials for houses and installments.

Chapter II begins the actual study of demographic realities. It restructures the behavior of the population by studying demographic phenomena such as birth rate, mortality, natural spit and marriage. Entitled *Natural movement of the population*, it treats every demographic phenomenon by studying the specific characteristics of the Cehu Silvaniei net. *The Birth rate*, the first sub-chapter, gives us a suggestive picture of the numerical evolution of the newborn infants during this period, illustrating their high number in the second half of the 19th century, as well as the progressive decrease during the first half of the last century. The seasonal childbirth movement on months has also been in our focus, which is spreading more and more over the period over all months and not just in the autumn-winter. Other factors that influenced the birth rate were the legal status of parents and the sex of the born. If in the latter case there is a slight male overbirth, in the latter case, the number of children from extra-conjugal or coincidental relationships is found to be multiplied.

Mortality, the second demographic phenomenon we have studied, is seen as high throughout the 19th century and the share of this index has been decreasing dramatically since the next century. It is proof that the population of the area, cantoned up to the age of centuries in the old demographic regime, modernizes their behavior toward one of transition with low mortality index. As we have seen, studying the seasonal movement of deaths and male and female mortality does not vary much during this period. Instead, research into deaths by age group or calculation of the average age of the people who are abducted shows great changes. In the case of age group registrations, the number of third-age inhabitants is doubled, as is the average age at death from under 30 in the 19th century to over 40 in the last decade under study. The causes of death also show a changed situation in the two periods. While in the first temporary period almost half of the population was reaped by infectious diseases, during the decades of the 20th century their share is gradually being reduced, with the "growing room" of degenerative diseases.

The Marriage, materialized by the moment of the wedding, is becoming individualized and modernized increasingly due to the competition between the state and the church in its subordination. This modernization of the nuptial demographic behavior is given by the slight increase in the age of marriage for mothers, the increase in exogame marriages, the emergence of more cases of cohabitation or first divorces. Other innovative aspects also relate to the achievement of wedding life throughout the year and not just between religious positions, and the closing of marriage between the 'newlyweds' with more and more partners from other localities. As for mixed marriages, we can see the perpetuation of religious conservatism at Greek Catholic level, and the willing of the reformed ones toward such marriages, due to the lower proportion of the Hungarian population compared to the Romanian, Greek-Catholic.

The third chapter, shorter in size, called the population structure, is researching net inhabitants on other demographic aspects. The population composition looks at issues such as nationality, religion, age groups and gender, with levels that do not differ much from one census to another. With the basic census source, the nationality of persons is broadly unchanged. The Hungarian authorities, however, are pursuing a policy of denationalizing the other ethnicities, both at the time of the dualism and at the time of the surrender of Northern Transylvania. Ethnicities such as, Jews and gypsies will be registered as Hungarians, and less Romanians or Germans. On the religious side, the importance of the most important religions is almost unchanged, and in the last three decades of the period under investigation, neo-Protestant religions appear and spread. Age groups have a long transition from high and lower weights of young and old-age population in the second half of the 19th century the decline of the first and the slight rise in the aging population, especially in the last decade under consideration. The proportion of the male and female population is reversed between the mid 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century, but there are small differences, less than one percentage. So the 1850, 1857 and 1869 censuses show a slight advance in the number of men, while those in 1900, 1910 and 1930 are slightly higher for women.

The last chapter, entitled *Social and economic realities*, will set out the economic frameworks in which the demographic behavior of this population manifests itself. As only the 1857, 1869, 1900 and 1910 censuses take the development of occupations by locality and/or net, their research will be in this temporary interval. In this respect, although agriculture remains by far the most important economic sector, with the number of people working in other economic sectors doubling over the last five decades.

In the case of agriculture, this crucial branch of the economy, we are observing slow but continuous progress during this period. While the increase in the number of households is natural and important, due to the population which is growing substantially, there is a parallel increase in agricultural land and better organization of it. If, in the mid 19th century, the biennial culture rotation was specific, the triennial rotations were generalized at the beginning of the 20th century, resulting in a black field of less than 20% of the land cultivated in the fifth century. The average size of a household gradually decreases due to the agricultural reforms, while the cultivated ones give a greater output. In this context, the areas with forests and pastures are being reduced, increasing those devoted to the cultivation of cereals.

In domestic animals, the number of hauling animals is high, which is necessary for the growing number of farming households, with the proportion of the heifer cows exceeding that of other hauling cattle (steers, horses, buffalo). Since the end of the 19th century, threshing machinery has been introduced, and then other agricultural machines (such as tractors) or factory-made machines. The agricultural instrument is also renewed, the plows and harrows with wooden fangs, being gradually replaced, if not permanently, by iron plows and harrows with iron fangs.

Other economic sectors that are going to supplement the income of the population are: Crafts, trade, industry and credit. Craft in mixed pools suffer a marked decline in the second half of the 19th century as they will lose their monopoly of guilds and will hardly adapt to new market conditions. The craft workshops will operate in larger mesh localities, but will be increasingly constrained by factory products. Trade, both in ambulant or universal stores, and markets, is being continually developed by the expansion of other economic sectors,

especially industry. The existence of Jewish stores (bolduri) is widespread in almost all the net localities, and in the Cehu Silvaniei and the larger localities, specialized stores are found according to the range of products sold. The credit system, although emerging toward the end of the 19th century, is developing due to the growing needs of the population, leading to the existence of three credit institutions and tens of consumer cooperatives. The industry has been growing into the last quarter of a century, thanks to the support of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, into branches using agricultural raw materials. In the first half of the 20th century, it is growing increasingly defending other industrial sectors, such as glass or paint processing.

In conclusion, the investigation of the population in the temporary period between the 1848 Revolution and the definitive establishment of the communist regime in Romania overlaps with the last period of the administrative structures in Transylvania called nets. Under investigation by the Romanian historiography, they were meant to coordinate and help the development of local communities, especially among the above mentioned benchmarks.

Looking at the demographic and social-economic realities in the Cehu Silvaniei net, we can say that in these aspects the population of the area has undergone important changes. Demographic change is taking place from the old demographic regime with high levels of mortality and birth rate to a transitional demographic regime with declining indicators.

In the case of social-economic realities, we see that the pace of change is much more alert to the period before the revolution and the inhabitants of the region are much more open to assimilating new things. Agriculture is modernizing in many respects, the number of non-agricultural occupations is increasing, new economic branches are emerging, railways, etc. all of this shows us that the population of the area is making efforts to keep pace with the modern society that is being definitively established in Transylvania, became part of Romania after the 1918 Union.

The historical science investigation of demographic and social-economic realities has revealed important aspects of the past of the Cehu Silvaniei net. Of course, the research of this country has other essential aspects that are awaiting detection and the subsequent, personal research or other historians will create a more detailed history of the realities in the Codru area. A more accurate knowledge of the historical aspects of the recent past can now help us to better understand ourselves, as well as to develop economically on the basis of the assumptions of the legacy of the past. I therefore think it is important to know our history, starting from local and continuing with national and European, because this will enable us to identify ourselves among the people of the globalized world.