

THE AUTHORS

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RADU SAVA is a PhD candidate in History at the University of Bucharest, conducting doctoral research on 20th century post-war relations among Romania and the People's Republic of China. Congruently, he is a full-time public civil servant. He holds a MA degree in Compared European Political Studies from Babeş-Bolyai University (Cluj-Napoca, 2020) as well as a MA degree in Chinese Politics and Foreign Policy from Tsinghua University (Beijing, 2019). Previously, Radu Sava served as a Fellow of the China-Europe Research Center at Tsinghua University (Beijing), has worked as a political affairs intern for the United Nations Secretariat (New York) and with the Institute for Cultural Diplomacy (Berlin). He is the author of various studies and articles, including a monograph (in Romanian) entitled *Reflections on Romanian-Chinese relations at 70 years of diplomatic rapports: Conversations with His Excellency Ambassador Romulus Ioan Budura* (Sibiu: Lucian Blaga University Press, 2020).

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ANDREEA-ANAMARIA IDU, graduated the Faculty of Foreign Languages and Literatures, University of Bucharest in 2016 within the philological field, Czech Language and Literature & Portuguese Language and Literature. The bachelor's thesis was held in Portuguese and concerned about "The narratological construction of the female characters in the novel Portrait of Ricardina by Camilo Castelo Branco"; enrolled at the Faculty of Letters, University of Bucharest, within the Department of Cultural Studies, Culture and

Politics Specialization and graduated the master's degree with the thesis "Romanian reactions to the Prague Spring after half a century. Commemoration of the Prague Spring event in the Romanian cultural press (2018 – 2020)". The research was focused on analysing the Romanian cultural-commemorative reactions to the political, economic and social situation in Czechoslovakia after half a century since the Prague Spring. In May 2021, was awarded 1st prize on the 6th edition of the International Competition for Young Translators – The Susanna Roth Award by the Czech Centres and the Czech Literary Centre, a section of the Moravian Library in Czech Republic for translating a selected text of contemporary Czech prose into Romanian.

HENRIETA ȘERBAN is Scientific Researcher II, PhD in Philosophy, at the Institute of Political Science and International Relations "Ion I. C. Brătianu" of the Romanian Academy, and Scientific Researcher III, at the Institute of Philosophy and Psychology "Constantin Rădulescu-Motru" of the Romanian Academy, Bucharest, Romania; editorial activity for several national and international journals. She lectured at the Catholic University of Brussels and at Loughborough University. Research interests: political philosophy, the philosophy of communication. Associate member CRIFST-DLMPS, correspondent member of the Academy of Romanian Scientists. Recently authored books: Editor (with Lut Lams and Geert Crauwels) of the volume *Totalitarian and Authoritarian Discourses. A Global and Timeless Phenomenon?*, Peter Lang Publishers, 2014 (in English), and in Romanian, with Cristian-Ion Popa (eds.), *Republican Political Philosophy. Modern and Contemporary Hypostases*, ISPRI Publishing House, 2014; *Forme simbolice și reprezentări ale fenomenelor socio-politice* [Symbolical Forms and Representations of the Socio-Political Phenomena], ISPRI Publishing House, 2017; co-ed., *Lucian Blaga – Selected Philosophical Extracts*, Vernon Press, 2017; co-ed., *Religion, Values and Social Conflicts*, ISPRI Publishing House, 2018; co-ed., *The Balkans as Reality. Democratization, Religious Identity and Fundamentalism in Romania and Bulgaria*, Veliko Tarnovo, "St. Cyril and St. Methodius" University Press, 2018 etc.

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FRANCIS B. ESSACU has successfully completed his doctoral research and received his PhD degree in Natural Resource Management and Environmental Science from the Australian National University in 2014. He joined the Papua New Guinea University of Technology (PNG UoT) in 2015 as a Lecturer in Sustainable Development Studies. He continued lecturing at the PNG UoT for 5 years. In 2020, moved on to the Papua New Guinea University of Natural Resources and Environment (PNG UNRE) and took up the position as Head of the Department of Forestry. He has also executed key administrative responsibilities at the PNG UNRE being designated as the acting Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor during 2020-2021. He has extensively published in his field of research which includes sustainable development, mainstream sociology, forestry, community development and planning, local leadership and governance and natural resource management in Papua New Guinea. Most of his research articles and international project reports are published in peer-reviewed and refereed journals with high impact factors (selective: *Journal of Communication, Politics and Social Science; International Journal of Current Research; Language and Linguistics in Oceania; New Zealand Online Journal of Multi-and Interdisciplinary Studies; European Journal of Sustainable Development; and Journal of International Understanding*). Besides his outstanding publication record, he has presented a number of research papers in refereed international conferences in Australia and Papua New Guinea. His research interests include PNG Mining, tribal plurality, gender inequity, political leadership and socioeconomic sustainability.

GHEORGHE DUMITRU, analyst of MENA’s events and evolutions, former Romanian Diplomat with postings in MENA’s countries and other diplomatic assignments directly linked to MENA’s issues, from Washington D.C. to the UN Security Council. He had the chance to witness, “on the ground”, as Ambassador to Egypt, the start and initial unfolding of the “Arab Spring”. He holds a PhD in Economy/World Economics.

CRISTINA VOHN, Scientific Researcher III, PhD, Institute of Political Sciences and International Relations “Ion I. C. Brătianu”, Romanian Academy. Author of the book *Politică externă și securitate în România interbelică: O analiză cantitativă (1919-1939) – Foreign policy and security in the interwar Romania: a quantitative analysis (1919- 1939)*, ISPRI Publishing House, Bucharest, 2018, coordinator and co-author (selected): *Europe after 25 years* (2014); *European Union after the Lisbon Treaty. Evolutions and tendencies* (2012); *NATO after Lisbon and the regional challenges* (2011); *Encyclopedia of the Political History of Romania (1859-2009)* (2009); *The States of the European Union* (2006); *Romania and the European Union. Historical Chronology* (2004) etc.

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IOANA RALUCA BĂJENARU, graduated University of Bucharest, Faculty of Letters, Romania, within the department of Cultural Studies with both a bachelor’s (*European Studies*) and a master’s degree (*Culture and Politics in European and International Context*). The bachelor’s thesis is titled “The Role of the European Parliament in the Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union” (Bucharest, 2019) with a case study concerning the European Union Monitoring Mission in Georgia (EUMM Georgia). The master’s thesis, “Bangtan Boys (BTS) – Part of South Korea’s Cultural Diplomacy and Soft Power Strategy” (Bucharest, 2021), aimed to demonstrate how a musical group can become a true diplomatic representative of their home-state, thanks to their global popularity. Participated in the “EuroStudii” Colloquium (University of Bucharest) with “Eurovision Song Contest – a soft power exercise” (2019) and “Perspectives on the relations between the European Union and Georgia” (2020).