

Extermination, Complicity, Resistance.
The Analysis of the Soviet Experiences in Romania and Moldova
(Abstract)

Editor **Dorin DOBRINCU**

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Following the model outlined by the Center for the Study of Communism and Post-Communism (CSCP), the Institute for the Investigation of the Crimes of Communism and the Memory of Romanian Exile (ICCMER) and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation organized a debate on January 31, 2012, entitled *Extermination, Complicity, Resistance. Analysis of the Soviet Experience in Romania and Moldova*. Both Romanian and Moldavian historians attended this event, including Ovidiu Buruiană, Igor Cașu, Dorin Dobrinicu, Florea Ioncioaia, Sergiu Musteață and Octavian Țicu. A volume edited by Sergiu Musteață and Igor Cașu, entitled *Fără termen de prescripție. Aspecte ale investigării crimelor comunismului în Europa* (Chișinău, Editura Cartier, 2011) was launched in connection with this debate. This volume gathered more than half of the papers of the members of the Commission for Study and Evaluation of the Totalitarian Communist Regime in the Republic of Moldova as well as papers presented at the international conference on *Democracy after Totalitarianism: Lessons Learned 20 years After*, which was held in Chișinău on May 24-25, 2010.

The discussions in Iași dealt with the delicate problem of the relationship between post-communist societies and their totalitarian pasts in Romania and the Republic of Moldova. An important role in the debate was played by the two truth commissions established in Bucharest and Chișinău: the Presidential Commission for the Analysis of the Communist Dictatorship in Romania (2006) whose led by Vladimir Tismăneanu and the Commission for Study and Evaluation of the Totalitarian Communist Regime in the Republic of Moldova (2010) led by Gheorghe Cojocaru.

The participants in the debate emphasized the importance of these commissions for a better knowledge of the communist period, on the perverse impact of a utopia come to power, and for creating a clear distance between democratic states and their totalitarian predecessors. “Inside” information about the work of these commissions was also presented: how they were established, the composition, debates, internal contradictions, and the reactions of different political, ethnic, professional groups and personalities involved within their respective societies. The consequences of the founding and activities of these commissions were also identified, including legal, educational research, and commemorative aspects.