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**Republica Moldova între Est și Vest. Vectori și Agenți ai Schimbării de Atitudine Politică**

**(1991 – 2016)**

**The Republic of Moldova between East and West. Vectors and Agents of Change that  
Determine Political Attitudes (1991 - 2016)**

**Rezumat in Limba Engleza**

**Summary in English**

This PhD thesis systematically analyses the evolution of the Republic of Moldova in the first century of independence after the dissolution of the Soviet Union. The period 1991 – 2016 is explained through a comprehensive analysis of the history of Bessarabia from its origins until the present day, with a special attention given to the period beginning with the first annexation of Bessarabia by the Russian Empire in 1812. Starting with the historical evolution of the region of Bessarabia, this academic work focuses on six vectors and agents which influence political attitudes in the Republic of Moldova. These are: National and Ethnic Identity, Official Language, Religion, Political Leaders, Geopolitics, Academia.

The first section of the thesis addresses the secular history of Bessarabia, briefly explaining both the period up to 1991 as well as the first 25 years of independence. In addition, a chapter is dedicated to the demographics of the Republic of Moldova and one to the economy. The second section is dedicated to the formation of the Romanian people and the alternative incorporation of Bessarabia as part of the Russian Empire, Romania, and the Soviet Union, followed by the subsequent independence of territory as a standalone state. The third section describes at length the false debate, the pseudoscience with regards to the existence of the Moldovan language. The fourth section explains how the Russian Empire has used the Orthodox Religion of the population from Bessarabia as a political tool meant to increase its political and military control of the territory. Section number five of the doctoral thesis is based on the research of the archives found at the Archive of Social-Political Organizations from Chisinau and explains in detail the political life of the Republic of Moldova in its first quarter century of independence. The sixth section addresses from different angles the geopolitical situation of the Republic of Moldova. The last section of the doctoral thesis is a relevant description of the way in which academia and the intellectuals from Bessarabia have influence public opinion at different historical turning points, but also how academia itself became influenced by certain political changes, being forced to move away from the scientific truth in order to please certain political circles. The general conclusion, which follows the seven sections divided in 36 subchapters, brings together the arguments developed over the span of the thesis and explains the mechanisms through which the vectors and agents identified influence political attitudes in the Republic of Moldova.

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