

EXAMPLES OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN 1850 -1914 IN WESTERN AND EASTERN EUROPE

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Abstract: Europe was and is a conglomerate of nations, ethnicities, beliefs and cultural models that many elements separate but there are things that unite them, as well. Political capitals of Europe after 1850 adopted urban plans for developing the structure of cities in economy, culture and especially for utility and functionality. Bucharest was no exception but the result shows that plans were left to the phase of goodwill which was not the case for large cities such as Paris or London. In all cases it will be observed during the study that there were several common defining lines such as the permanent demographic and territorial expansion, absorbing suburbs into neighbourhoods, industrial development, the emergence of new shopping centres, increasing the importance of products, houses, people, the external influences and cultivating the taste for beauty classified as utility.

Keywords: planning, design, cities, demography, constructions, centre, suburb

When we speak of models for the European urban world, Paris and London are two cities which may be taken as a standard. At their inception, they developed randomly only on the basis of previous plans, as it was only after the second half of the 19th century. In 1850 London and Paris were firstly "two major centers of consumption"¹.

In 1871, London came to 7,26 million inhabitants, becoming a first example of absorption of the communities in the vicinity; it had a potentially explosive development, if we take into account the fact that in 1851 it had only 2.4 million inhabitants and in as little as 20 years, it tripled its numbers.

Even in Paris, considered the "capital of late nineteenth century" has begun to evolve into a modern city between 1850 and 1860, when under the direct coordination of architect David Harvey "new portions of the center of the city have been restructured on modernist lines of rational type, starting from the planning of the prefect Georges-Eugene Haussman". So there were big avenues and channels, as supplemented by the great central square with six areas in which four were specialized in food (meat, fish, fruit and vegetables). It was "the largest covered market in the world", built between 1866 and 1868 - with "84 thousand square meters".

Modern urban development has, in some cases, at its base, urban theories. In their initial phase, most projects presented idealistic traits that had little connection with reality. Different concepts which have in common innovative proposals to the development of new types of cities which, although have started with pre-existing realities and needs, arrive at the end of the project to look too forward-thinking for those times. The best-known models designed as theories have been the City garden City or the Linear City congestion, the Satellite City, the Regional city, the Monuments City, the city on the motorway, the undertaking city, the city of consumption, the city of Permanent poverty and the overloaded city.

The first inventor of the concept of City garden seems to be the Spanish engineer Arturo Soria y Mata, which came up with the idea in an article from 1882. In essence, he said something like "trams or railway, transport systems that will start in the big cities, could give you a great linear accessibility, which would allow development of linear city garden"². Ebenezer Howard,³ described this theory by suggesting a simple image of a city with tall buildings and with many green spaces all over the place.

Barry Parker took over the idea of this model, which adds three principles of American influence, which were in his opinion applicable and more easily adaptable to urban areas which had already occurred⁴. The first was the neighbourhood principle unit; the second recommended the arrangement of materials taking into account the natural elements of the site, and the last was that of propagation and town planning of paths with trees, inseparable elements in a modern city which is not necessarily the type garden.

Another urbanist, La play, suggested something similar in 1870 –the creation of cities in the center of big plantations. The one who has been able to put their ideas into practice has been E. Howard. It has built a town garden "Letchworth with 30,000 inhabitants"⁵ a project followed by Welwyn garden fittings(with 50,000 inhabitants). The Trevize garden set up in Hampstead may be taken as a guide for the nearest thing to the initial vision of a city of this kind.

The British Urbanist Ebenezer Howard (1850-1928), in his works "Tomorrow" (1898) and "Garden Cities of TB tomorrow" claimed the establishment of a new type of city based on the type of the design garden. He published in this respect in the year 1902 his own theory for the planning of the future, according to which the three magnets that could exercise attraction on humans were the city-metropolis, the rural and the city center garden.

The first flaunts with economic wealth and cultural diversity of life; the second provides a quiet and healthy life, while the garden variant combined the advantages of first two options.

Another version of the city-garden meant the Linear city, proposed by Spanish urbanist Arturo Soria y Mata in 1892; it claimed extending two bills on the basis of that model. The Linear City was characterised by "presenting an artery of high circulation", whose role was that of polarizing the socio-economic life.⁶

New challenges that had to be resolved, had arisen and a reply appeared in the close proximity of 1900 with the theory of the mottled congestion City. Raymond Unwin, expressed best the ideas of this planning specifications in a pamphlet called Nothing gained by overcrowding (1912).

In his point of view, the main conditions necessary for a decent living standard in a city shall consist of: ensuring a minimum distance of 70 feet between houses, use of narrow terraces, a garden for each family, land-use freely behind the house as space for recreation and safety for children's playgrounds. He mentioned that the new neighbourhoods were to carry out the duties of ' semi-independent satellites and not independent garden cities ". His ideas have been taken over and improved in 1919 by the government of George Lloyd, who thought ensuring such houses for the majority of the population could constitute an insurance against Bolshevism and of the revolution"⁷. The forward-thinking urban types appear, such as skyscrapers and those of overloaded cities, proposals initiated by Le Corbusier. As a matter of principle, the two types showed the need to distinguish structuring of cities in shopping centers, business centers, living areas, preferential living areas or colonies, areas in transition, suburban areas and industrial areas. The theory which supported this new type of urban design, is also known as the regional City. The idea was born in France and Scotland, becoming reality in America after the garden city model, which was born in America becoming and became reality in England.

Regional urbanism started with Patrick Geddes (1854-1932), who promoted the idea of natural regions in their form as "the

¹ Food and the city in Europe since 1800, Edited by Peter J. Atkins, As. hgate e-Book, 2007, p.42.

² Peter Hall, O istorie intelectuală a urbanismului în secolul XX, București, Edit. All, 1999, p.129.

³ Ibidem, p.104

⁴ Ibidem, p.125.

⁵ V. Cucu, Geografia oraşului, București, Edit Meridiane, 2001, p. 104.

⁶ Ibidem, p.73.

⁷ Ibidem, p.86.

purest, far from the shadow giant cities"⁸. The Regional City represented a model of consumption. Life of those centers had to be fleeting and to be taken into account only as long as they were aimed at exploiting resources in the area, without significantly deplete habitat.

The theory of City brought something completely new in the Architects' thinking at the beginning of the XXth century. This was well known in the era and under the name of "Beautiful City"⁹ movement, which has its "origins in nineteenth-century, in the avenues and promenades of major European capitals". The Reconstitution of Paris by architect Haussman and building the contemporary Ringstrasse in Vienna fit perfectly as classical models. Daniel Hudson Burnham in Chicago is considered the initiator of the theory mentioned above, known as early as the years 1880 and 1890, in his capacity as leader of the ' project construction Worlds Colombian Exposition in 1893".

The suburb remained in this case a great controversy. There were voices vehemently protesting this form of planning would "disintegrate the city", which disappeared in such a way as the embodiment of art and technology"¹⁰.

The main critical trail started from the idea that suburbs "lack of form" and secondly that the traditional type of urban economic circuit of modern times would be cut off. Rural areas have benefited from this new model of urban design, which established "a refined version of English Apartheid" by conservating comfortably in suburban lifestyle what can no longer be found in the new cities.

In contradiction to the previous project the undertaking City theory came along; it was appointed by some as "urban design turned upside down"¹¹, because it showed an autodestruction sequence leaving behind reassurance and protection of the environment, for which it had militated until then.

The City of consumption will take over the leadership in the top theories, being already in early stages. According to the ideas of Proudfoot, the city was to ensure in the first place a mass production of goods, which meant automatically "a mass consumption, i.e. a large number of consumers concentrated in cities with high density"¹².

Europe and the world of the 19th century were in full transformation and expansion planning. New plans were designed and old ones readjusted. The reference model was in Paris, designed as a chessboard and cadriilj¹³; the last solution was in : New York, Madison, Saigon or Barcelona. There are also star plans (Detroit), orthogonal (Leopoldville), garden towns (London) etc. Models above are considered classic.

In the modern era, European cities have known approximately the same directions of development. The West has given the tone changes, and it has served as a model for central and eastern areas on the continent.

A common space to all cities regardless of location, shape, structure, purpose, number of inhabitants etc was the central square. Around the market other spaces have developed, extending in radial and concentric shapes; keeping in mind the formula first come first served.

There is a statistics in a particular study by Ahrend Hoper Klett-Cotta, " we believe eloquent for the above-mentioned statements, on demographic trends of the main European cities out of which we selected 9 urban centers in all the continental areas, intended to show the demographic evolution of European countries and cities for the period between the years 1850 and 1910.

Table 1. The demographic evolution in the main cities between 1850-1910

Town	1850	1880	1910
Amsterdam	224.000	317.000	567.000
Berlin	419.000	1.122.000	2.071.000
Budapesta	178.000	371.000	880.000
Londra	2.685.000	4.777.000	7.256.000
Madrid	281.000	398.000	572.000
Maskau	365.000	612.000	1.481.000
Paris	1.053.000	2.269.000	2.888.000
Praga	118.000	162.000	225.000
Wien	444.000	726.000	2.030.000

The Center and the periphery have delimited urban areas and the people: their living quarters were distinguished in appearance and benefits, and the population was ranked in socio-professional-economic structures. In the city on the banks of Dambovita, the core and the edges found themselves in a permanent competition, beneficial both from the point of view medium and long term development. The two areas have been in a continuous transformation process as they approached and intertwined "by the crossing of some big straight"arteries"¹⁴. The model has been taken from European capitals Paris, Rome, Amsterdam, Barcelona and Madrid¹⁵.

Bucharest's suburbs evolved through "the districts bordering neighbourhoods", which is the time in which the Center, as opposed, seemed to compress, although it has expanded at all times. Up to the half of the 19th century, suburbs had the look of villages that have evolved with extensive industrialisation and urban demographic accompanied by the explosion of transport development in modern neighbourhoods-that is not the case in Bucharest, which had entirely a patriarchal aspect.

Cities in general, and Bucharest in particular have developed horizontally and then vertically as a result of the building of commercial markets, public spaces for recreation, houses for living. To these features were added: public lighting, paved streets, networks of water supply, drainage channels of the waste, means of modern transport, railways, airports, etc.

This is how the city came to behave like a " complex body ", which works as dictated by trade(its lungs) and his stomach-the population, which consumes and runs profits, putting in motion all urban gear.

In this way, as stated by well reputed historian Victor Axenciuc, the partial urbanization of cities up to 1914 followed and carried out a few technical advances and development in health services and of "the supply of products strictly necessary for consumption-meat, bread, wood", etc.

With an increase in territorial towns by the annexation of neighbouring spaces, rural character has accelerated the process of urbanization. Workers were the main beneficiaries, because they traveled daily at the place of work, often located away from the area in which they lived. The development of towns was due to population migration from village to urban space for seeking a job, starting a business and a more convenient life- a migration with positive consequences as pointed out by Fernand Braudel, "a city would cease to live if it did not ensure supplies with new people"¹⁶. We are dealing with a forced recruitment uninterrupted". Biologically, before the nineteenth century, "we did not know of larger numbers of births as compared to death". A poor class became a "feature of any large city". All urban centers, starting with those from the West, had their quarters bordering neighbourhoods". There is no more "city without neighbourhood documents signed, without slums" -structures considered to be vital to urban development and the proper functioning of urban space.

The 20th century has been characterised by an uncontrolled urban explosion of cities branching out, a process which was, at the time, characterised by "the chaotic development of

⁸ P Hall, *op. cit.*, p.155.

⁹ Chicago, New Delhi, Berlin and Moscow.

¹⁰ *Ibidem*, p.340.

¹¹ Baltimore, Hong Kong, London.

¹² Liviu Chelcea, *Bucureștiul postindustrial*, Iași, Edit. Polirom, 2008, p.21.

¹³ A synonym for „grid” (from French quadrillage, grid i.e. „Network of squares that appear on a drawing, on a map, to serve to reproduce them at a different scale” – Academia Română, *Dictionarul explicativ al limbii române*, București, Edit. Univers Enciclopedic Gold, 2009, p.148).

¹⁴ Handbuch der europäinachen wirtschafts-und Sozialgeschichte, Vol. 5, Stuttgart; Klett-Cotta, 1985, capital de Walfram Fischer, p.42.

¹⁵ *Ibidem*, p.107.

¹⁶ Fernand Braudel, *Structurile cotidianului*, vol.II, București, Edit. Meridiane, 1984, p.278.

different neighbourhoods, by gradually replacing gaps and overstocking population through lack of houses".

Throughout Europe, cities have become gradually detached from rural areas, keeping connection through peripheral areas and proximity. In 1850 there is no city "that does not have its villages, its sliver rural life's annex(sic!)"¹⁷, the transition area for the supply of food products. Bucharest is not an exception; as most western cities, it did not benefit from a clear delimitation between poor neighbourhoods and the noble (center).

Bucharest, since its first documentary attestation of "20 September 1459"¹⁸ has become an urban placement approved by the merchants. Placing here the seat city and then turning it into the capital city of Romania offered it the great chance to be the most searched for city, the best provisioned and the most populous of our space.

The status of capital city turned Bucharest into a common urban center in a city with multiple functions, developed by commercial activities supported by the internal and external context of modern age. It attracted like a magnet merchants and goods of consumption because it owned a selling market the main institutions of the country were located here: ministries, the National Bank of Romania, the Court of Auditors, Royal Palace, government headquarters, the Parliament, University, State Archives, the Official building of the Gazette, the Palace of Justice, the Palace of Post Office, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry/stock exchange, etc. Bucharest has turned into the most important transit point and disposal of the most important products with food character. That's why the largest wholesalers and merchants from all over the country who had external commercial interests passed on here.

French painter Edouard Marbeau, following a visit in 1879, wrote to the newspaper "Correspondent" in Paris, that "Bucharest is a real Babylon"¹⁹. Seated at road crossing trade between sunset and sunrise, it was inevitable; as it was inevitable that the grading on the first place of the favourites for foreign and domestic merchants.

Bucharest city has developed gradually gathering around it the ancient historical center villages located around. Dambovită was a binder of the urban areas, offering natural dimensions, and the city expanded especially in the north, in the lake areas. The remembering of old villages shall be kept in the memory of its citizens; names such as Floreasca, Pantelimon and Colentina are familiar as components of the capital city in the form of districts.

Orașul a crescut atât pe orizontală cât și pe verticală într-un ritm propriu, imprevizibil deseori și planificat rareori. S-a extins mai ales ca teritoriu, „anexând” satele și comunele limitrofe, ce-au devenit pe rând mahalale și apoi cartiere ale urbei noastre. Legile și planurile cu caracter edilitar au fost concepute cu simț de răspundere și valențe-estetice, dar nu au putut fi respectate în întregime din diverse motive. Top of Form

City has increased both horizontally and vertically in a self-paced, often unpredictable and rarely planned manner. It expanded especially as a territory, "annexing" adjacent villages and communes, which became slums and then neighbourhoods of our city. Laws and plans with non-public utilities have been designed with sense of responsibility, conscious-aesthetic sense, but could not be fully complied with for a variety of reasons.

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Extending the city was based on multiplying churches and slums, which defined all major changes in the evolution of planning but also of the "professional landscape of Bucharest".

"Slum" is a term taken from the Arabic and Turkish

communities, and translates as "part of the city" or "neighbourhood"²⁰.

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Gradually around Bucharest fair new oasis village were founded and developed, that would be converted into slums after 1600. Although there were essential changes, the city has turned gradually from a "rural living space in a bolster urban type", it has been closely linked to the establishment of the court and establish a commercial node in the area".

After 1660, the core originally known under the name of Bucharest has been developed in particular, the center was about "space booked for the Royal Court", reaching from 10,000 inhabitants in the "middle of the 17th century" to 30-40,000 (in 1800) coming up "toward 70.000"²¹ in 1830.

Since its inception, it is present in the form of a village that has evolved gradually to fair and town, subsequently becoming capital of the two principalities, political position maintained until today. A map of the town was made by traders and contemporaries: 1. The fair Center, 2. The residential neighbourhood, 3. the peripheral zone. The Center fair was incorporated in the Old Court, being surrounded by future residential neighbourhoods: Victory Square, Ianca de Hunedoara, Ștefan cel Mare, Mihai Bravu, the lab, Lanariei, the path Serban Voda, Viilor and Grozavesti avenues²².

An English passenger in close proximity to 1800 in Bucharest presented somewhat idyllically the Romanian capital city: "Bucharest is a large city, or rather an endless village with sixty thousand people, where a few palaces, more beautiful and large monasteries, as well as the numerous 60 Orthodox churches are lost among flowered gardens, nice smelling bushes, and charming walking spaces(sic!)"²³.

The knight Ludwig von Sturmer, the son of an Austrian diplomat, who was in 1816 on a visit on the shores of Dambovită, tells us that "it is located on the little river Dambovită" having "its roads covered with oak tree trunks", where one could find many inns, which "are some buildings, in which foreign merchants are staying and unclose goods for sale", these buildings have large gardens in their middle". Between these buildings there is the fair or the marketplace" which was made up of several hallways covered and cluttered with all sorts of goods. He concluded like his predecessors, that "it can be seen as the point of separation between the morals and habits of easterners and westerners (sic!)"

On the same line of ideas, the French diplomat Marie Louis Demartin du Tyrac (vicountess of Marcellus) described it dully as "a city that is no longer part of East, but not yet in Europe".

In the year 1831, local authorities took an important step in the direction of modernization by creating of a Council of the city, with precise management powers for administering Bucharest, and the city was divided into five areas (sectors), being bounded by 13 barriers²⁴. A belt road and barriers are set up around the city, a process relatively finalised on 1857.

In parallel with the economic expansion, notable changes have occurred in the overview image. The City had an oval-shape and a very large area, with sight changed according to the input used to enter Bucharest. From the south you could enter straight into the forest, which had morphed in a huge garden", where there were "hidden away pretty boxes, kiosks and colourful towers".

In 1860 it was as follows: no channel, without lights, with bogs, streets askew, without no alignment. From the point of view of town planning and architecture, the city was a disaster, far away from any real modernisation as it was happening in Western Europe, with almost insignificant attempts of evolution towards a European capital city.

¹⁷ Frederic Damé, *Bucureștii în 1906*, Pitești, Edit. Paralela 45, 2007, p.340.

¹⁸ Florian Georgescu (coord.), *Istoria orașului București*, București, Muzeul de Istorie a Orașului, 1965, p. 81.

¹⁹ Lelia Zamani, *Negustori, negustorași și negustoreli în vechiul București*, București, Edit. Vreamea, 2009, p. 9.

²⁰ Constantin C. Giurescu, *Istoria Bucureștilor*, București, Edit. Sport Turism, 1979 p.300.

²¹ F. Damé, *op. cit.*, p.49.

²² Vintilă M. Mihăilescu, *Evoluția geografică a unui oraș-București*, București, Edit. Paideia, 2003, p. 117.

²³ Sophia Johnson, apud . George Potra, *Bucureștii de altădată*, București, Edit. Științifică și Enciclopedică, 1981; p.117.

²⁴ Silvia Colfescu, *București ghid turistic, istoric, artistic*, București, Edit. Vreamea, 2007, p. 8.

In December 1860, a commission was set up "for the Beautification and health of the city"²⁵, which had as main objectives "putting up 50 faucets, rearranging the four markets, city limits established by grooves and a road, the construction of a large market" . They were very narrow, winding and cunning for merchants or firemen in the course of their work. We must not be surprised that "in two hours'time, 200 shops could have been burned down" .

Fig.1. The Great Fire of 1847²⁶



This is how we explain why the gentlemen gave orders with regard to fire prevention: each merchant, had to have both in summer or in winter, a barrel full of water in front of its shop, being prohibited to hold hay in the city and to tear down the wood stalls in the front. In locations with commercial character nobody was allowed to smoke pipe, "and in the gutters it was forbidden to cook polenta" . The city may as well had been flooded by Dambovită or due to rain.

Fig.2. A flooded street in Bucharest in 1864²⁷



Another sign of the horizontal development of the city is to be found in the 1886 extension of the periphery, even if it had not been strictly limited. There were surely referred to and bounded to the nearest 27 points, by which they entered the capital city, called generally, barriers.

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Anyway, in the same way as major European capitals, it could be divided into three major concentric circles, of which the middle comprised trade, the authorities and the rich, the second, small craft industries and the working class and finally, the latter, [...] great industry and poor population" . The Center has evolved after the Western model, with massive buildings, wide avenues, large shops and luxury all over the place. The French model was to be seen in the street alignment, architectonic style, food and fashion.

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After 1880 a first alignment procedure was felt when "the systematic paving of streets was made, pavements have been built, there had been new streets" . Bucharest City " was one of the capital cities with the highest reported area to match the size of the population. In 1907 the city spread over an area of 5,500 ha, which had 1,026 traffic routes, of which 15 boulevards with a length of 512 km, 60 roads, 29 main streets, 616 markets²⁸. the City had 35,850 buildings, most of which had gardens and yards, and buildings with multiple floors were mostly in the center" .Bottom of Form

²⁵ Dan Berindei, *Dezvoltarea urbanistică și edilitară a orașului București în perioada regulamentară și în anii unirii 1831-1862*, in: „Studii. Revistă de istorie”, Nr. XII, Edit. Academiei R.P.R., 1959, p.143.

²⁶ bucuresti.infarom.ro/pictura19.html

²⁷ D.M.B.A.N, Fond.P.M.B, Serv. Administrativ, Dos.110/1864, f.1.

²⁸ F. Georgescu (coord.), *op. cit.*, p.391.

An important factor, which has contributed to the general development was the increase of demographics accelerated especially after 1860. The houses in the outskirts had grown in numbers, and less in quality, at the same time as the demographic numbers of approximately 20,000 souls at intervals between 3 and 5 years, as can be noticed by comparing the data comprised in the tables below:

Table. 2. The trends in the number of inhabitants in the range 1831-1918

Year	1831	1859	1860 ²⁹	1872
Populations	70.000	102.454	162.000	177.645
Year	1878 ³⁰	1881	1894 ³¹	1899 ³²
Populations	177.646	200.000	232.009	276.168

Year	1901	1903 ³³	1904 ³⁴
Populations	270.000	289.184	290.740
Year	1911 ³⁵	1912 ³⁶	1915
Populations	341.321	338.109	381.179

The figures are approximate at least up to the year 1899, when the first census was carried out with scientific methods. A census previously had been carried out in 1859, under the leadership of Ion Ionescu from Brad.

In 1862, the new capital of the two principalities had 142,000 inhabitants and its center stretched along Dambovită river (2 km in length and over a width of 0.5 km)" . There were several villages around town: Izvor, Dudești, Văcărești, Ghencea, Șerban Vodă, Colentina, Dămăroaia, Militari, Tei, Pipera, Balta Albă, Pantelimon, Cățelu etc. Other census conducted in 1894 came to estimate the stable population at 232,009 souls", in fact they were already 250,000³⁷, the difference being made by tourists, who had been stated in various documents and statistics.

The number of people increased due to economic, political and social opportunities and that is why people, as well as strangers, from all over the country came hoping to find here a sense. Bucharest was extended to all the parties, even if unevenly. The density remained low in comparison with the surface in relation to two other European capitals. By way of comparison of approximately 7 times less than that in Paris and approximately 4 times less than that in Vienna.

Table.3. comparison made in 1906³⁸

Capital	Area (ha)	Population	Inhabitants (on ha.)
București	3.500	300.000	85.714
Paris	4.850	2.714.000	559
Viena ³⁹	5.700	1.660.000	291

According to historic sources and existing data, a large number of inhabitants were of foreign origin and most of them had as main occupation, trade. As a matter of principle, the mixture was the same and each kept its field of activity.

²⁹ F. Damé, *op. cit.*, p.123.

³⁰ *Ibidem*, p.143.

³¹ D.M.B.A.N, Fond P.M.B, Serv. Administrativ, Dos. 16/1894, f.2v.

³² Ion Alexandrescu, in *Enciclopedia de istorie a României*, Ed. a II-a, București, Edit. Minerva, 2002, p.332.

³³ *Ibidem*.

³⁴ F. Damé, *op.cit.*, p.123.

³⁵ Radu Olteanu, *Bucureștii în date și întâmplări*, București, Edit.Paideia, 2002, p.331.

³⁶ Ion Alexandru, in *loc.cit.*, p.332.

³⁷ D.M.B.A.N, Fond P.M.B, Serv. Administrativ, Dos. 16/1894, f.2v.

³⁸ Frédéric Damé, *op.cit.*, p.113.

³⁹ *Ibidem*.

Table 4. The situation of population reported to nationalities in 1899

Romanian	Jews	Hungarian	Albanian	German
186.000	43.318	38.600	3.698	2.968
Italian	Greek	Bulgarian	Russian	Turkish
2.107	1.380	938	535	245

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3. Web Page: bucuresti.infarom.ro/pictura19.html