

# THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE FROM A ROMANIAN PERSPECTIVE - THE INTERWAR PERIOD

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## **Abstract:**

*The Nobel Prizes are widely regarded as the ultimate achievement by researchers, writers and politicians. Due to its uniqueness and the values it stands for, the Nobel Peace Prize seems increasingly important in the modern world. To this point, no Romanian citizen was awarded this prize, but how many of them were nominated and how close were those nominated to winning this prize? Based on the archives of the Nobel Institute, this paper presents the Romanian nominees during the interwar period, their image and their activity as it appears in the nomination letters. The documents show that the name of some Romanians appears in the letters of nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize, their works and ideas being of a real interest. Those who nominated them tried to influence the decisions of the Nobel Committee in favor of their candidate. The results were not positive, but Romanians, the nominees as the nominators, were among those keeping pace with the events, the politics and the peace movements in Europe during a troubled time.*

## **Rezumat:**

*Premiile Nobel sunt considerate astăzi ca cea mai importanta realizare de către cercetători, scriitori și politicieni. Datorită unicității sale și a valorilor pe care le reprezintă, Premiul Nobel pentru Pace a devenit mai râvnit decât oricare altul în lumea contemporană. Prin urmare, este important să se știe cât de generos a fost acest premiu, sau mai degrabă Comitetul Nobel, cu reprezentanții unor națiuni sau cât de aproape de câștigarea acestui premiului au fost alții. Având ca punct de plecare arhivele Institutului Nobel, această lucrare prezintă candidații români la Premiul Nobel pentru Pace din perioada interbelică, munca și imaginea lor așa cum apar acestea în scrisorile de nominalizare. Documentele demonstrează că românii au fost prezenți în scrisorile de nominalizare pentru Premiul Nobel pentru Pace, operele lor și ideile lor fiind de un real interes. De asemenea, cei care i-au nominalizat, au încercat să influențeze într-un mod convingător deciziile Comitetului Nobel în favoarea candidatului propus. Rezultatele nu au fost întotdeauna cele așteptate, dar românii, atât candidații cât și cei care i-au propus, au fost printre cei ce au ținut pasul cu evenimentele, cu politica timpului și cu mișcările pentru pace într-o perioadă tulbură din istoria Europei.*

**Keywords:** Nobel Peace Prize; Romanians; nominations; Nobel Committee

This article approaches the interwar nomination of Romanians to the Nobel Prizes, with emphasis on the Nobel Peace Prize. The Nobel Prize has received growing attention in Romania especially against the background of the awarding of Nobel Prize for Literature in late 2009 to German-Romanian writer Herta Müller. As little research has been done on the Romanians nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize<sup>1</sup>, my work is proving a start in the field. The few works approaching this subject refer especially to the Nobel Prize for Science, among the winners of which was George Emil Palade in 1974<sup>2</sup>. The Prizes for Literature were subject to heated discussion in an attempt to explain why Romanian authors have been ignored although the Romanian literature is one of exceptional quality<sup>3</sup>. The main sources of information for this paper are the archives of the Nobel Institute.

The fact that Romanians were not selected<sup>4</sup> by the Nobel committee in Oslo or Stockholm is not due, as has been argued elsewhere, to the scarcity of contacts between Romania and the Nordic countries or to the lack of interest of these committees, but rather to the fact that these contacts

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<sup>1</sup> According to the Statutes of the Nobel Foundation, a nomination is considered valid if it is submitted by members of national assemblies and governments of states, members of international courts, University rectors, professors of social sciences, history, philosophy, law and theology, directors of peace research institutes and foreign policy institutes, persons who have been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, board members of organisations that have been awarded the Nobel Prize, active and former members of the Norwegian Nobel Committee, former advisers to the Norwegian Nobel Committee. The Nobel Committee makes its selection on the basis of nominations received or postmarked not later than February 1st of the year in question. Nominations which do not meet the deadline are normally included in the following year's assessment. Members of the Nobel Committee are entitled to submit their own nominations as late as the first meeting of the Committee after the expiry of the deadline. The Committee does not itself announce the names of the nominees. In so far as certain names crop up in the advance speculations as to who will receive the year's Prize, this is either sheer guesswork or information put out by the person or persons behind the nomination. Information in the Nobel Committee's nominations data base is not made public until after fifty years. [http://nobelpeaceprize.org/en\\_GB/nomination\\_committee/who-can-nominate/](http://nobelpeaceprize.org/en_GB/nomination_committee/who-can-nominate/)

<sup>2</sup> Laurențiu Ulici, *Nobel contra Nobel* (București: Editura Cartea Românească, 1988).

<sup>3</sup> Mircea Cărtărescu, „Cum stăm cu Premiul Nobel,” in *Evenimentul Zilei*, 10.10.2008.

<sup>4</sup> Nominations are considered by the Nobel Committee at a meeting where a short list of candidates for further review is created. This short list is then considered by permanent advisers to the Nobel institute, which consists of the Institute's Director and the Research Director and a small number of Norwegian academics with expertise in subject areas relating to the prize. Advisers usually have some months to complete reports, which are then considered by the Committee to select the laureate. The Committee seeks to achieve a unanimous decision, but this is not always possible. The Nobel Committee typically comes to a conclusion in mid-September, but occasionally the final decision has not been made until the last meeting before the official announcement at the beginning of October. [http://nobelpeaceprize.org/en\\_GB/nomination\\_committee/selection-process/](http://nobelpeaceprize.org/en_GB/nomination_committee/selection-process/)

were not sustained. Romanians have not paid enough attention to the functioning mechanisms of these institutions and were not able to profit from the interest the Nobel Committee members have expressed for some of their personalities. Another possible explanation is the increased interest for winners, rather than for nominees, and the limited level of cooperation between Romania and Scandinavia. The language barrier played also a role.

The existing documentation offers a good picture about how Romanians were perceived in Oslo and the Norwegians in Bucharest, which areas of collaboration between the two countries prevailed and how and through whom this collaboration was achieved.

The interwar period, for example, was considerably richer in nominations of Romanians as compared to the previous period. Several attempts were made to draw attention to the Nobel committees<sup>5</sup> upon Romanian scientists, writers or politicians due to the uniqueness and importance of their work and research, but very few have ever come to the attention of these committees or ended on the short list. This may be regarded as partially Romanians' fault. The Romanian government and personalities have either failed to understand or showed limited interest in the functioning mechanisms of the Nobel Prize. A concentration of forces is usually required, followed by internal and international recognition. A large number of letters sent from all over the world to support and draw attention to the person recommended to the Nobel Committee helps<sup>6</sup> in most cases, even though there are also a few examples of the opposite<sup>7</sup>. This means that a person nominated to receive the Nobel Prize should be recognized for his/her work for peace both domestically and internationally. A single letter sent once a year, or every year for a period of several years is not sufficient to win the prize. This was the case for most Romanians nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize<sup>8</sup>.

The first recorded Romanian nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize dates back from 1912<sup>9</sup>. The famous historian and professor Nicole Iorga<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> *Redegjørelser for Nobels Fredspris* (Oslo: Grøndahl & Søns Boktrykkeri, 1939) and [http://nobelprize.org/nobel\\_prizes/peace/nomination/database.html](http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/nomination/database.html)

<sup>6</sup> See, for example, the recommendations sent for Karl von Ossietzky (1889-1938) who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1935. There are two bulky files in the archives of the Nobel Institute including over ninety letters of recommendation for the German dissident.

<sup>7</sup> [http://nobelprize.org/nobel\\_prizes/peace/nomination/database.html](http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/nomination/database.html). Fridtjof Nansen for example needed not more than a few letters to win the Prize.

<sup>8</sup> *Redegjørelser for Nobels Fredspris...*

<sup>9</sup> There is a two pages long letter sent by Nicolae Iorga in 1912, dated January 24th. Norske Nobel Institutt Arkivskaper/The Norwegian Nobel Institute Archives, 1-46, PFL 26/1912.

proposed for the awarding of the Prize the *Königlich-Sächsisches Institut für Kultur-und Universalgeschichte an der Universität Leipzig* and his founder Karl Lamprecht<sup>11</sup>. Iorga begins the nomination letter with a brief introducing of himself where he writes:

*Je m'autorise de ma qualité de professeur d'histoire universelle à l'université de Bucarest et de membre de la section historique de l'Académie roumaine et d'auteur de la « Geschichte des rumänischen Volkes » et de la « Geschichte des osmanischen Reiches », de « Philippe de Mérières et la croisade au XIVE siècle » et des « Notes et extraits pour servir à l'histoire des Croisades au XVe siècle », du « Byzantine empire » et de nombreux autres ouvrages en roumain, pour proposer à vos suffrages éclairés l'Institut d'histoire universelle fondé et conduit à Leipzig par mon vénéré maître, M. K. Lamprecht<sup>12</sup>.*

The remaining of the letter emphasizes Lambrecht's qualities as a historian and the importance of the Institute he created: *Personne n'a une part plus large dans la rénovation des études historiques pendant les vingt dernières années que M. Lamprecht<sup>13</sup>*. Lamprecht and his theories have changed *la manière d'étudier les événements historiques*. In Iorga's opinion, the Institute has set *les bases nouvelles de l'histoire universelle et découvrent par patiente comparaison les liaisons secrètes des civilisations nationales<sup>14</sup>*. His letter of recommendation is not unique in recommending the Institute from Leipzig. German and Austrian professors<sup>15</sup> also tried to convince the Nobel

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<sup>10</sup> Nicolae Iorga (1871-1940) was a Romanian historian, politician, literary critic, memoirist, poet and playwright. Co-founder (in 1910) of the Democratic Nationalist Party, he served as a member of Parliament, President of the Deputies' Assembly and Senate, cabinet minister and briefly (1931-32) as Prime Minister. A child prodigy, polymath and polyglot, Iorga produced an unusually large body of scholarly works, consecrating his international reputation as a medievalist, Byzantinist, Latinist, Slavist, art historian and philosopher of history. Holding teaching positions at the University of Bucharest, the University of Paris and several other academic institutions, Iorga was founder of the *International Congress of Byzantine Studies* and the *Institute of South-East European Studies*.

<sup>11</sup> *Königlich-Sächsisches Institut für Kultur-und Universalgeschichte an der Universität Leipzig* or The Institute for Cultural and Universal History at the University of Leipzig was created in 1909 by Karl Lamprecht whose work was devoted to comparative world and cultural history. Iorga studied for his PhD at the University of Leipzig and Lamprecht was one of the members in his doctoral committee.

<sup>12</sup> Norske Nobel Institutt Arkivskaper, 1-46, PFL 26/1912.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>14</sup> Norske Nobel Institutt Arkivskaper, 1-46, PFL 26/1912.

<sup>15</sup> [http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel\\_prizes/peace/nomination/nomination.php?string=1912&action=simplesearch&submit.x=18&submit.y=11](http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/nomination/nomination.php?string=1912&action=simplesearch&submit.x=18&submit.y=11)

Committee of the values promoted by Lamprecht and his new theories in the study of history.

However, for Romanians, the most outstanding example of a personality who was not rewarded with the prestigious prize is that of Nicolae Titulescu. Titulescu remarkably represented Romania on the international arena during the interwar period, being twice elected President of the General Assembly of the League of Nations. His outstanding work for peace and the admiration he enjoyed from some of the Nobel Committee members may have entitled him to be considered for the awarding of Nobel Peace Prize. He began his diplomatic career in 1920 as the representative of Romania at the Peace Conference and as one of the main mediators after the war. In the third decade of the 20th century, he became a first class personality of the international diplomatic community as a servant of his nation as Minister of Finance and Foreign Minister, twice appointed ambassador to Britain and permanent member of the Arbitration Court in The Hague. For more than twenty years, Titulescu, endowed with a strong analytical sense, was present on both political and diplomatic fronts, proving a competence which cannot be denied. The realistic manner in which he addressed key issues on the international arena such as disarmament, peace treaties, positive economic cooperation between states led, as I mentioned above, to his election as president of the General Assembly of the League of Nations in 1930 and 1931, which was unique in the history of this organization<sup>16</sup>. Holding this prestigious position twice only confirmed the exceptional qualities of a politician involved in obtaining peace through international cooperation.

His activity brought a big contribution into enhancing the prestige of Romania on the European political scene. The Romanian diplomat was one of the most talented representatives of small powers, a man of peace who first spoke of *spiritualizing* the boundaries, developing a definition for what the European Union stands for today. This was a new interpretation based on the idea of finding those elements uniting people, namely culture and spirituality, instead of keeping to the physical barrier of borders. Titulescu's conception represented a cornerstone in the development of peace and international relations during the inter-war period. In one of his lectures, he emphasized that *peace should not simply mean the absence of war, but the attitude of trust, mutual understanding and the hope that the future will be better. Peace should not be only proclaimed, it should be cherished and maintained*<sup>17</sup>. In accordance with his ideas, international relations should be

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<sup>16</sup> Walter M. Bacon Jr., *Nicolae Titulescu și politica externă a României, 1933-1934* (Iași: Editura Institutului European, Romania, 1999), 11.

<sup>17</sup> Nicolae Titulescu, *Documente diplomatice* (București: Editura Politică, 1967), 345.

guided by the *laws of peace*.<sup>18</sup> Constantly defending the ideas of peace, Titulescu promoted the policy of good neighborliness, the ability to understand other states' point of view, the general cooperation through regional and international cooperation. Therefore, he labored to create regional alliances such as the *Little Entente* and the *Balkan Entente*, to strengthen central and eastern European states in order to counterbalance the great powers. He stressed several times that there should be a general European security system, not one divided into the Western security and Eastern security, as proposed by Great Britain<sup>19</sup>. Titulescu was among the few Romanian politicians who understood and expressed the relationship between national and universal in politics and developed a unified and balanced political vision accordingly.

Although an entire mythology surrounds Titulescu and his alleged recommendations for the Nobel Peace Prize, he was in fact never nominated; no recommendation or nomination letter was sent for him to the Nobel Committee in Oslo. Yet, as I noted above, being a widely appreciated and recognized figure throughout Europe and beyond, he would have not lacked supporters if such a campaign would have been initiated. He was one of best candidates for obtaining the Nobel Peace Prize in 1930 or 1931 or in the subsequent years. Some of the Nobel Committee members, such as Johan Ludwig Mowinckel<sup>20</sup> and Halvdan Koht<sup>21</sup> were great admirers of Titulescu's work during his presidency of the General Assembly of the League of Nations. Mowinckel showed his appreciation for Titulescu in 1933 during a discussion with the Romanian envoy in Oslo, Barbu Constantinescu. *Mr. Titulescu*, Mowinckel argued, *was undoubtedly one of the best and the most capable presidents of the League of Nations. There is a great honor for your country to have a Foreign Minister of such a scale*<sup>22</sup>. We can only imagine Mowinckel's reaction, or that of other members of the Nobel Committee, if letters of recommendation would have arrived at the Nobel

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<sup>18</sup> Ibid., 345.

<sup>19</sup> Bacon Jr., 13.

<sup>20</sup> Johan Ludwig Mowinckel (1870-1943), famous Norwegian politician, Prime Minister and Foreign Minister between 1924 and 1926, 1928 and 1931 and between 1933 and 1935. He was also a member of the Nobel Committee between 1925 and 1937.

<sup>21</sup> Halvdan Koht (1873 – 1965) was a Norwegian historian, biographer, and Foreign Minister (for Labour Party) between 1935 and 1940. He was a consultant for the Norwegian Nobel Institute from 1904 to 1913, examining proposed candidates for the Nobel Peace Prize, and served on the Norwegian Nobel Committee from 1918 to 1942.

<sup>22</sup> Mowinckel expressed again his admiration for Titulescu in 1934 in front of the new envoy of Romania in Oslo, Dimitrie Jurașcu. Jardar Seim and Stelian Obiziuc, eds., *Romanian-Norwegian Relations, Diplomatic Documents, 1905-1947* (Bucharest: Institutul Cultural Român, 2007), 91-93 and 99-102.

Institute on his name. The instability on the Romanian political scene following the death of King Ferdinand worsened the internal situation and diminished the chances that real values would be recognized and promoted. Instead of appreciation for his work, Titulescu became a *persona non grata* during the dictatorship of Carol II who asked him to leave the country and removed him from all public positions<sup>23</sup>. While in exile in Switzerland, Titulescu continued to promote his ideas of peace through a series of articles and conferences, drawing attention especially to the dangers of fascism.

As regards the Nobel Peace Prize, Titulescu wrote a letter of nomination, dated January 28, 1935<sup>24</sup>, recommending the former Prime Minister of Brazil, Afrânio de Mello Franco<sup>25</sup>. The two politicians had much in common and became friends during their League of Nations' mandates<sup>26</sup>. In his letter of nomination sent to the Nobel Committee, Titulescu is highlighting the merits of Mello Franco in mediating the conflict between Colombia and Peru, which broke out in 1932 when the Peruvians had occupied the port Leticia. The jurisdiction over the port was assigned in 1922 to Colombia, but the Peruvians challenged their authority<sup>27</sup>. Mello Franco intervened as a mediator and war was avoided after the signing of an agreement on May 24, 1934. Consequently, in 1935 43 letters of recommendation<sup>28</sup> were sent to Oslo expressing support for Mello Franco as a candidate for the Nobel Peace Prize, including the one sent by Titulescu. Titulescu presents, in a convincing manner, Mello Franco's qualities as a lawyer and politician, *his courage to implement the ideas of peace and international cooperation, his conception that theory and action can always be merged into politics for preventing the outbreak of war*<sup>29</sup>. Unfortunately, Mello Franco was not able to win the Peace Prize that year, the whole attention being directed toward the German dissident Karl von Ossietzky who dared to oppose Hitler.

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<sup>23</sup> For more information see: George G. Potra, 'Reacții necunoscute la demiterea lui Titulescu, 29 august 1936: O "mazilire perfidă"', *Magazin Istoric* 6 (1998).

<sup>24</sup> Det Norske Nobel Institutt Arkivskaper, Prisforslag/Nominations (PFL), 18-41/1935.

<sup>25</sup> Afrânio de Mello Franco (1870-1943), Brazilian politician and diplomat, Foreign Minister and Brazil's representative to the League of Nations from 1929.

<sup>26</sup> During his activity as Romania's Foreign Minister, Titulescu has shown great interest for Latin and South America. He will open, for example, new diplomatic representations in Rio de Janeiro, Buenos Aires, Santiago, Mexico City, Caracas.

<sup>27</sup> Stanley Hilton, *Brazil and the Great Powers, 1930-1939, The Politics of Trade Rivalry* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1975).

<sup>28</sup> Det Norske Nobel Institutt Arkivskaper, 1935 and [www.nobel.se/nominations](http://www.nobel.se/nominations).

<sup>29</sup> Det Norske Nobel Institutt Arkivskaper, Prisforslag/Nominations (PFL), 18-41/1935.

The first letter of recommendation<sup>30</sup> sent to the Nobel Committee for a Romanian by another Romanian does not appear in the Institute's archives before 1926. The letter bears the signature of Romanian Senator Dissescu<sup>31</sup> and recommends Vespasian V. Pella<sup>32</sup>, professor and member of the Inter-Parliamentary Union<sup>33</sup>. Professor Dissescu dispatched together with his letter of recommendation dated January 1, 1926, two copies of Pella's main work, *La Criminalité Collective des Etats et le Droit Pénal de l'Avenir*<sup>34</sup>. In a new letter dated March 16, 1926<sup>35</sup>, Dissescu attached two more volumes of this book along with five booklets comprising the results of an international investigation on the novelty of the ideas Pella was promoting. He expressed his regrets of not being able to annex several documents received from leading figures in the United States, Spain, France, etc. who considered Pella's work outstanding, since they would have arrived after the deadline. In his turn, Vespasian Pella has also sent a letter<sup>36</sup> from Paris to the Nobel Committee's Chairman<sup>37</sup>, expressing his gratitude for Dissescu's proposal and offering to send more information on his theory<sup>38</sup>.

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<sup>30</sup> Det Norske Nobel Institutt Arkivskaper, 1-17 /1926 and 9/1926.

<sup>31</sup> Constantin G. Dissescu (1854 - 1932) was a Romanian lawyer, politician and diplomat, Professor of Law at the University of Iași (1883) and Bucharest (1884), he also served as Minister of Justice, Education and Religious Affairs. He was one of the Romanian delegates to the League of Nations, a member of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, President of the Romanian Inter-Parliamentary-Group.

<sup>32</sup> Vespasian Pella (1897-1960) was a Romanian lawyer, professor and diplomat, member of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, member of the International Association of Penal Law, Professor of International Law at the Academy in The Hague, member of the Romanian Academy, Romanian delegate at the League of Nations. His ideas gave rise to the creation of international institutions such as the International Court of Justice and the Prevention of Genocide Convention of the United Nations.

<sup>33</sup> Inter-Parliamentary Union is an institution founded in 1889 by Frederic Passy, winner of the first Nobel Peace Prize in 1901, and William Randal Cremer. It was the first international forum open to negotiations aimed at arbitration and peaceful resolution of conflicts. The organization played an important role in establishment of the first Court of Arbitration in The Hague. The permanent headquarters of the Inter-Parliamentary Union are in Geneva.

<sup>34</sup> The paper Dissescu referred to was published in 1925 and proved to be a complete novelty for the international law system.

<sup>35</sup> Det Norske Nobel Institutt Arkivskaper, 1-17/ 1926 and 9/1926.

<sup>36</sup> Det Norske Nobel Institutt Arkivskaper, 9/1926, letter dated 11th of January 1926.

<sup>37</sup> The Nobel Committee was composed between 1925 and 1930 by Fredrik Stang (Chairman), Cornelius Bernhard Hanssen, Hans Jakob Horst, Johan Ludwig Mowinckel and Halvdan Koht.

<sup>38</sup> According to the „unwritten laws” of the Nobel Committee, it is a mistake to contact the Committee after being nominated. Therefore, Pella's action was not welcomed and probably determined his exclusion from the shortlist.

Professor Dissescu's letter of proposal outlined Pella's tireless work to spread the ideas of peace *through his book of great value and absolutely original, which qualifies his author for being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize*<sup>39</sup>. Dissescu continues with great fervor in over 45 pages to make a brief presentation of Pella's innovative ideas, highlighting his merits point by point: participation in international conferences, speeches, articles in newspapers and magazines, reports to scientific societies etc. He regarded as noteworthy the interest of different personalities of the time for the new ideas and theories expressed by Pella. Instead of making a simple summary of Pella's work, he tried to present it through the eyes of these personalities who would thus give Pella a kind of mediated recommendation. Dissescu considered *La Criminalité Collective des Etats et le Droit Pénal de l'Avenir* the most important work of Professor Pella arguing that *introducing this book to the Nobel Committee will give the author the chance to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize* but this did not prevent him to review some other of his writings.<sup>40</sup> He insists on the novelty of the theories promoted by Pella: *instead of an empirical study of war, he introduced for the first time in international law, the idea of collective criminality of states in case they allow war to happen*<sup>41</sup>.

Dissescu tried to accomplish alone something others have achieved through combined efforts of institutions and personalities, namely to convince the Nobel Committee of the value of Vespasian V. Pella as a peace personality. He lacked in the available resources, finances or contacts like other nominators, but he brought to the attention of the Committee in his long letter references and recommendations from personalities such as Louis Barthou<sup>42</sup>, Donnedieu de Vabres<sup>43</sup>, Enrico Ferri<sup>44</sup>, Sir Cecil James Barrington Hurst<sup>45</sup>, to name just a few of those who were familiar with

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<sup>39</sup> Det Norske Nobel Institutt Arkivskaper, 1-17/ 1926 and 9/1926.

<sup>40</sup> Det Norske Nobel Institutt Arkivskaper, 1-17/ 1926 and 9/1926.

<sup>41</sup> Ibid.

<sup>42</sup> Louis Barthou (1862-1934) French politician, Prime Minister in 1913, Chairman of the Reparation Committee after the war, Minister of Justice during the Poincaré government and Foreign Minister in 1934. Aware of the German danger, Barthou confirmed French support to Poland and encouraged local alliances such as *Little Entente* initiated by Romania.

<sup>43</sup> Henri Donnedieu de Vabres (1880-1952) was a French lawyer known for his work in the Nuremberg trials after the World War II. Together with Raphael Lemkin and Vespasian V. Pella, he contributed to the *Convention for the Prevention of Genocide* documents of the United Nations. Lemkin was the first to use the term genocide (from Greek word *Genos* - family, tribe, race and Latin *Cide* - to kill) in his 1944 work *Axis Rule in Occupied Europe*.

<sup>44</sup> Enrico Ferri (1856-1929) was an Italian jurist and criminologist, supporter of the socialist ideas, author of different books on social criminology. Professor at the University of Rome and initiator of the Italian School of Criminology.

<sup>45</sup> Cecil James Barrington Hurst (1870-1963) was an English politician and lawyer, member of the House of Commons, Foreign Office legal adviser. He worked from 1929 to 1945 as a

Pella's ideas, considering them interesting and exciting. Thus, a number of 22 personalities from the political, diplomatic or legal fields pronounced themselves, indirectly, in favor of Pella's candidacy. The nomination would have received considerable weight were the aforementioned personalities send their recommendations to the Nobel Committee and not to a anonymous senator in Bucharest. Unfortunately, we can only speculate on this. No further nomination of Vespasian V. Pella can be found in the Oslo archives in the subsequent years and Dissescu's enormous effort remained thus inconclusive.

Vespasian V. Pella<sup>46</sup> is considered today one of the founders of international law. He was a founding member of the International Association of Law established in 1924 in Paris, one of the initiators of a Permanent Criminal Court and a representative of Romania to the League of Nations. He presented at the League of Nations in 1928 the draft of a *Statute*<sup>47</sup> for creating an *International Court of War Crimes* inside the already existing permanent *International Court of Justice*.

In 1949, Vespasian V. Pella's name appears again in the archives<sup>48</sup>, this time among the nominators. He proposed Edgar Milhaud<sup>49</sup>, French economist and politician, for the Nobel Peace Prize. This letter shows Pella's continuous involvement in peace problems and his unremitting contacts with international institutions despite the political system change in Romania.

From 1931 to 1937 nominations were sent to the Nobel Committee<sup>50</sup> on behalf of Professor Peter Tomaschek of Siret (a small town in Northern Romania) *for his visionary ideas on the issues of peace*<sup>51</sup>. Peter Tomaschek was not, as one would expect, a famous name in the Romanian political or diplomatic life. His presence among the nominees of Nobel Peace Prize may come as a surprise to those familiar with the main figures of Romanian interwar period. One may wonder: why no letter of recommendation for

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judge of the Permanent Court of International Justice in The Hague, serving from 1934 to 1936 as the President of this Court.

<sup>46</sup> C. Turcu, "Centennial Vespasian V. Pella", *Magazin Istoric* 1 (1997).

<sup>47</sup> Gregory Pemberton, "The man who saw the future: Vespasian V. Pella, Terrorism and the Creation of the International Criminal Court", *Romanian Journal of International Law* I, no. 6 (2008): 203-223.

<sup>48</sup> Det Norske Nobel Institutt Arkivskaper, 9-2/1949.

<sup>49</sup> Edgar Milhaud (1895 -1964) was a famous French economist, author of several theories behind what has become today's social economy. Promoter of socialist ideas and the extension of voting rights for women. He published several articles and lectures on complying with international treaties and conventions as a prerequisite to prevent war.

<sup>50</sup> Det Norske Nobel Institutt Arkivskaper, 1931-1937.

<sup>51</sup> Vasile I. Schipor, "Contribuții la cunoașterea unei familii din Bucovina," *Journal of Social History* IV-VII (1999-2002): 1-24.

Titulescu is to be found and so many for some completely unknown person? The letters of recommendations for Tomaschek cover a period of six years. His circles of friends or acquaintances were probably convinced of the value of his ideas that deserved to be promoted and rewarded. At this point, a brief overview of his life and career appears necessary.

Peter Tomaschek was born on July 11, 1882<sup>52</sup> as the youngest child of a family of German descent from Bohemia who settled in the small Moldavian town of Siret in the early nineteenth century. Peter began his studies at the Theological Seminary in Lemberg (Lvov) obeying his parents' desire to become a priest. He was more inclined towards medicine and philosophy and eventually spent several semesters studying medicine in Prague and Vienna, coming in contact with *the spirit of the time* and with the new ideas promoted in the Academia. He finally concluded his studies in Literature and Philosophy in Cernăuți. After graduating, he became professor in Cernăuți and Gura Humorului, and between 1912 and 1926 he taught German and Latin at the German High School in Suceava. The Austrian Yearbook acknowledged him as a professor at the *Franz Joseph* Gymnasium in Suceava and then in Siret. After the First World War, he will be very active in the union movement of Bukovina with Romania. In 1940, Tomaschek was elected as one of the members of the Romanian-Soviet Committee who met the Soviets in order to negotiate on the issues springing from the application of Soviet ultimatum to Romania, which implied the occupation by the Soviets of the northern part of Bukovina. He sustained and pleaded in favor of Romanian stance<sup>53</sup>.

Tomaschek's nominations for the Nobel Peace Prize are a result of his sustained work on promoting peace<sup>54</sup>, which began as early as 1906 through the publication in Vienna of his first paper: *How can peace save the world?* The first letter of nomination was sent in 1931<sup>55</sup> by Pantelimon

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<sup>52</sup> Ibid., 5-6.

<sup>53</sup> Schipor, 14.

<sup>54</sup> Vasile Schipor refers to a series of articles published by Tomaschek between 1906 and 1931 in German newspapers such as *Czernowitzer Tagblatt*, *Czernowitzer Morgenblatt*, *Deutsche Tagepost*. Schipor, 16-18. The 1931 letter of recommendation sent by Pantelimon Chirilă referred to the article *Creation of the new nations and world peace*, appeared in 1918. The letters of recommendation sent in 1933, 1934 and 1937 referred to more recent works such as *PanEuropa* published in 1930 and *Global crisis and peace* published in March 1931. Percec noted that four copies of *Crime Industry* appeared in 1929 will be sent later to the Nobel Committee because of the difficulty to send everything by registered mail. In the Nobel archives in Oslo there are only the recommendation letters, but not the books mentioned above. Vasile Schipor states that they were required from the Nobel Institute in 1987 by Tomaschek's family (settled in Sweden).<sup>55</sup> Det Norske Nobel Institutt Arkivskaper, 32-1/1931.

<sup>55</sup> Det Norske Nobel Institutt Arkivskaper, 32-1/1931.

Chirilă<sup>56</sup>, a member of the Parliament in Bucharest. Recommendations for Tomaschek were sent again in 1933<sup>57</sup> by Senator Ștefan Percec<sup>58</sup>. The subsequent letters from 1934<sup>59</sup> to 1937 will be sent on behalf of teacher Peter Tomaschek by Erast Nastasi<sup>60</sup>, also a Member of Parliament. All the letters are in German, with annexes or newspaper cuttings of the time and even poetry, emphasizing the international situation and the merits of the above-mentioned Romanian teacher.

For example, in an old-fashioned style and faulty German, the first nominator, Pantelimon Chirilă emphasizes Tomaschek's qualities as a propagator of peace as they appear in the brochure: *The Emergence of the New Countries and Peace*<sup>61</sup> published in 1918. Devoted to the concept of world peace, Tomaschek claimed in his work that *war was always a relic of barbarism in humans, a disgrace to the civilized world and should therefore disappear from people's minds in the 20th century*. He believed that *peace alone could contribute to the plenary development of the human being*<sup>62</sup>.

In his recommendation of 1933<sup>63</sup>, Ștefan Percec points out to Tomaschek's ideas about the individual's role in society, about war and the transfer of responsibility from politicians to ordinary men. The fact that people expect from the state and from the politicians (whom he calls *merchants of death*) to decide on important questions such as peace does not reflect a mature thinking. He insists on the fact that proper training could transform citizens from passive to active, getting them more involved in decision making (...) He points out that disastrous wars are merely the result of global finance, and therefore *wars should be moved to a spiritual level and transformed into a noble competition. Contacts between nations should be facilitated by a common language, a common currency and a common World Parliament*<sup>64</sup>. A whole literature is written by Tomaschek on this subject, as

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<sup>56</sup> Pantelimon Chirilă (1878-1940) was a lawyer and senator, member of Peasants Party, born in Rădăuți in northern Bukovina. Member of Tomaschek's circle of friends.

<sup>57</sup> Det Norske Nobel Institutt Arkivskaper, 47-1/1933.

<sup>58</sup> Ștefan Percec (1873-1938) Romanian lawyer and politician, member of the Peasants Party, senator of Radauți.

<sup>59</sup> Det Norske Nobel Institutt Arkivskaper, 41-1/1934, 30-1/1935, 36-1/1936, 32-1/1937.

<sup>60</sup> Erast Nastasi (1898-1933) Romanian politician and lawyer, former judge, Vice-Chairman of Rădăuți Liberal Party. Appears in the Nobel Archives under the name Ernst Nastasi.

<sup>61</sup> There are only references to these books and brochures by those who nominated him. They were not to be found in the Nobel Institutes Archives as Tomaschek's family wanted to have them.

<sup>62</sup> Det Norske Nobel Institutt Arkivskaper, 32-1/1931.

<sup>63</sup> Det Norske Nobel Institutt Arkivskaper, 47-1/1933.

<sup>64</sup> Besides the idea of European Union to which Tomaschek refers, there is interesting to note the three terms he uses: common language, common currency and the World Parliament, all of which begin in German with the letter W: *Weltsprache, Weltwährung, Weltparlament*.

Percec states, which was on the way of being translated into all languages and enlighten the masses.

New recommendations written by Erast Nastasi beginning with 1934 and continuing every year until 1937 followed<sup>65</sup>. They are largely identical to his first recommendation. Yet, the letter of 1936<sup>66</sup> bears the visible influence of the international polemics around the nomination of Carl von Ossietzky<sup>67</sup>. It is obvious that Nastasi informed himself from the German press and did not escape the influence of Nazi propaganda that attacked at the time Ossietzky as well as the Nobel Committee and Norway. He attached, confused, many clippings from German newspapers where the Nobel Committee members were called *Marxists, Freemasons, fanatics and unreliable*. He adds, though, in the end of his letter, showing enough understanding and common sense that: *we do not want to believe these suppositions*. Despite this remark, it seems that at least partially the propaganda had some effect, which becomes obvious in the letter sent in 1937<sup>68</sup> in which he states: *until the last corner of the world, indignation broke out against Ossietzky receiving the Prize*. To justify his attitude he attached again to the letter several German newspapers cuttings<sup>69</sup>, articles written by

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<sup>65</sup> *Det Norske Nobel Institutt Arkivskaper*, 41-1/1934, 30-1/1935, 36-1/1936, 32-1/1937.

<sup>66</sup> *Det Norske Nobel Institutt Arkivskaper*, 36-1/1936.

<sup>67</sup> Carl von Ossietzky (1889-1938) was a famous German peace activist who began his career as a critical journalist of the Weimar Republic and published documents demonstrating German rearmament. His vehement criticism continued also after Hitler came to power in 1933. Therefore, he would be arrested, tortured and sent into several camps where his health started to deteriorate. The first nominations for the Peace Prize being granted to Ossietzky arrived at the Nobel Institute in 1935. The Nobel Committee included at that time members of the Norwegian Government. They had to deal with Hitler's threat to attack Norway if the Peace Prize will be awarded to Ossietzky. The Committee tried to gain time by deciding not to award the Peace Prize in 1935. In 1936, more than eighty letters arrived at the Nobel Institute from all over the world nominating the German dissident. Under such pressure the Committee had no choice but to award the Peace Prize to Ossietzky in 1936 for 1935. Hitler did not invade Norway, but forbade German researchers to receive the Nobel Prizes or any other awards that were not granted *by a German, Arian institution, the only ones able to judge German value*. This prohibition was to enter into force in 1937 and ended in 1945, affecting a number of German researchers. The Norwegian Parliament in its turn decided to avoid such crises in the future and stated that no member of the Government or Parliament should be allowed to be a member of the Nobel Committee. Parliament or Government members could hold such a position, but only after their retirement from politics. The goal was for the Committee to gain independence from the Government, so that its decisions would not affect the security of the Scandinavian state. Vasilica Sirbu, "Hitler și Premiile Nobel," *Analele Științifice ale Universității "Al.I.Cuza", Iași, Istorie LI* (2005).

<sup>68</sup> *Det Norske Nobel Institutt Arkivskaper*, 32-1/1937.

<sup>69</sup> The fact that there are only cuttings from news papers considered by Nastasi edifying for his attitude makes it difficult to know their titles or their release date. It can be assumed, however, that they are from German newspapers published between 1936 and 1937.

Nobel's family in Sweden or by Knut Hamsun in Norway, most of them against Ossietzky.

In the recommendation letter<sup>70</sup>, Nastasi persevered into highlighting the merits of Tomaschek, undertaking a presentation of his work. He repeated Percec's ideas and his arguments of the previous years. He emphasized Tomaschek's arguments in favor of creation of a Parliament of nations, of a common currency that would facilitate world development, of multiculturalism, of the advantages of the democratic system and the dangers of individual annihilation in a totalitarian state, offering as a negative example Bolshevik Russia. Tomaschek's opinion that heads of state should be exposed to the new ideas about democracy, *which promote the value of each man, thus avoiding the danger of transforming humans into an inert mass, blind and illiterate* was also referred to. Nastasi also mentions Tomaschek's support for the setting up of a Hebrew state based on his argument that *Jews have not left their old land voluntarily, but they were forced to do so. (...) People's attitude towards them was not always favorable, bringing them therefore in a defensive position. Continuous difficulties have turned the Hebrews into the brightest and wisest of all peoples of the world.* The solution proposed by Tomaschek, and supported by Nastasi in his recommendation, was the creation of a Hebrew state where *joining the ranks of other nations, they would lose their dangerous sharp intellect and the ability to dominate world finances. The creation of a Jewish state is a prominent factor for solving the problem of peace*<sup>71</sup>. This is an interesting vision if we look at the time when it was presented, but idealistic and somehow ironic taking in consideration the political developments after the creation of the Jewish state.

Nastasi's recommendations are intended to be complex and informative about the ideas promoted by Tomaschek. His presentation is sometimes inconsistent, disorganized and difficult to understand, even though most of it insists on the candidate's ability of providing solutions for the problems of that time. It is unlikely that the Nobel Committee members would have had the time or the patience to understand the significance of such recommendations.

However, despite the possible faults of the recommendation letters, the ideas of Peter Tomaschek as presented by those who nominated him show him as a person who wanted to find solutions to the world's conflicts and was well connected to the realities and events of his time. The transformation of the individual from passive to active and the pressure on political power are some of the most widely acclaimed principles today.

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<sup>70</sup> *Det Norske Nobel Institutt Arkivskaper*, 32-1/1937.

<sup>71</sup> *Ibid.*

Promoted by both governmental and non-governmental organizations, they represent the underlying code of every democracy. Tomaschek's vision about future foreshadowed some of the contemporary institutions such as the European Union, the United Nations, the use of a common currency, respect for diversity and tolerance. Despite the "Blacksmith's locan"<sup>72</sup> atmosphere in connection with the discussions on the questions of peace emerging from the recommendations sent to Oslo as well as from the book written by one family offspring<sup>73</sup>, Tomaschek was loved, respected and appreciated by his family and friends who decided to honor him by sending nominations to the Nobel Committee.

For the interwar period, we can find a number of other nominations made by Romanians, which demonstrate that they were keeping pace with time and events. For example, when the League of Nations was nominated for the Peace Prize in 1929<sup>74</sup>, a nomination letter from Romania joined other famous names supporting the international institution established after the First World War. The author of this letter was Ermil Pangratti<sup>75</sup>, Rector of the University of Bucharest, member of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. The recommendation is in reality an answer to an invitation sent by the Nobel Committee to come up with a proposal, as reflected in the Nobel statutes. The Union of Associations of the League of Nations was sustained in 1929 by numerous letters of recommendation following a campaign initiated by its member states<sup>76</sup>.

In 1931, the famous Romanian journalist and politician Mihail Manoilescu<sup>77</sup> sent a letter of nomination for Étienne Clémentel<sup>78</sup>, French

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<sup>72</sup> Refers to a scene from one of the most famous novels of post World War II Romanian literature, *Moromeții* written by Marin Preda (1922-1980). In about thousand pages, Preda presents the slow and deep dissolution of an ordinary peasant family from the Wallachian Plain in Southern Romania. The novel traces the destiny of this social category between 1930 to 1950 showing how Moromete's peasant dignity is kneeled by the deep changes brought about by the war and by the communism. The author relies heavily on his characters use of language, comprising their particular humor, reflection and subtle meditation on the deep questions of existence. The scene I am referring to describes the gathering of peasants every Sunday at the local blacksmith, locan, to discuss politics and to *put the country on track*.

<sup>73</sup> Doina M. Teris, *O sută de ani în Bucovina. Cronică de familie* (Cluj-Napoca: Editura Mediamira, 2003).

<sup>74</sup> Det Norske Nobel Institutt Arkivskaper, 31-5/1929.

<sup>75</sup> Ermil Pangrati (1864 - 1931) engineer and mathematician, founder of the Romanian School of Architecture.

<sup>76</sup> See [www.nobel.se/nominations](http://www.nobel.se/nominations)

<sup>77</sup> Mihail Manoilescu (1891-1950) was Romanian economist, journalist and politician. Foreign Minister during the turbulent summer of 1940, he half-heartedly signed the Viena Dictate imposed by Hitler and Mussolini upon Romania. According to it, Romania was forced to cede more than 16,000 squares miles of territory to Hungary. Manoilescu's ideas presented in his *Economic Theory of International Trade* have been implemented with success

lawyer and politician who helped spreading the ideas of pacifism and international cooperation and the establishment of the International Chamber of Commerce, whose first president he became in 1920. The International Chamber of Commerce comes up with the idea of nominating Clémentel for the Nobel Peace Prize, sending the first recommendations in 1931<sup>79</sup>.

In 1932 two members of the Romanian Parliament, Vasile Demetrescu-Brăila<sup>80</sup> and Constantin Xenii<sup>81</sup> recommended Efsio Giglio-Tos<sup>82</sup>. Giglio-Tos was known as the founder of the International Federation of Students *Corda Fratres* in 1898, based on principles of mutual understanding for the cause of peace. He was the main promoter of closer cooperation between Italy and France and of creating an international Parliament of students and teachers who should meet on a yearly basis. Giglio-Tos's ideas became growingly accepted, especially against the background of the limited freedom of expression in Fascist Italy. In 1938, there is another Romanian professor, Aurelian Ionașcu<sup>83</sup>, who nominated

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in some countries from South America, such as Brazil. The former Foreign Minister became one of the victims of the Communist regime. He was arrested after 1944 and died in prison in 1950, being buried in a common grave.

<sup>78</sup> Étienne Clémentel (1864-1936) was a French lawyer and politician, holding various governments positions. He was involved in the recovery and reorganization of France after 1918, negotiating the Dawes Plan.

<sup>79</sup> [http://nobelprize.org/nobel\\_prizes/peace/nomination/nomination.php](http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/nomination/nomination.php)

<sup>80</sup> Vasile Demetrescu-Brăila (1876-1939) was a Romanian physician and diplomat, one of the politicians who considered that Romania should enter the war as one of Entente's allies. Minister of Arts and Religious Affairs during Take Ionescu's government between 1921 and 1922. More information about Vasile Demetrescu-Brăila in Toader Buculei's monograph, *Vasile Demetrescu Brăila. Omul și faptele sale* (Brăila: Editura Istros, 2008).

<sup>81</sup> Constantin Xenii (1878-1934) was a lawyer, journalist and diplomat. His name was actually Zender, apparently of Jewish origin, after information provided by Enciclopedia Predescu. Member of Parliament and Minister of Labor between 1921 and 1922 in Take Ionescu's government, collaborator of various literary magazines and newspapers. His name appears in the nomination database of the Nobel Foundation as Xanhi.

<sup>82</sup> Efsio Giglio-Tos (1870-1941) was an Italian teacher, member of the French-speaking minority in northern Italy. He was in favor of a greater cooperation with the French and initiated a prolific and creative activity of several organizations that promoted pacifism. He was recommended for the Nobel Peace Prize mainly by Italians (with the two Romanian exceptions for 1932), between 1930 and 1938. [http://nobelprize.org/nobel\\_prizes/peace/nomination/nomination.php?string=Efsio+Giglio+Tos&action=simplesearch&submit.x=16&submit.y=8&submit=submit](http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/nomination/nomination.php?string=Efsio+Giglio+Tos&action=simplesearch&submit.x=16&submit.y=8&submit=submit).

<sup>83</sup> Aurelian Ionașcu (1903-1990) was a lawyer and professor at the Law Faculty in Cluj. He defended his Ph.D. in Paris in 1930, being one of the best Romanian lawyers. Ionașcu was the author of numerous works of Romanian and international law.

an Italian, Professor Francesco Cosentini<sup>84,85</sup>. The same year a group of professors from the History Faculty at the University of Iași recommended Franklin Delano Roosevelt to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.<sup>86</sup> Their motivation was mainly the political work of Roosevelt, but they also acknowledged his involvement in economy and culture. The recommendation is addressed on behalf of all university professors from the University of Iași.

The next nomination is unwonted, albeit it dates some years after the end of the Second World War. The letter is worth mentioning because it provides information on the political changes Romania went through at the time. A group of professors of the University of Bucharest<sup>87</sup> signed in 1948 a letter of recommendation in support of Vyacheslav Molotov's nomination<sup>88</sup>. The supporters of this candidacy were famous names of Romanian culture, well-known interwar historians such as Andrei Oțetea<sup>89</sup>, Ion Nestor<sup>90</sup>, Anton Dumitriu<sup>91</sup> and Emil Condurachi<sup>92</sup>. The reason they

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<sup>84</sup> Francesco Cosentini (1873-1941) was a politician, lawyer and author of several works of American family law and legislation.

<sup>85</sup> *Det Norske Nobel Institutt Arkivskaper*, 7-2/1938.

<sup>86</sup> *Det Norske Nobel Institutt Arkivskaper*, 16-1/1939.

<sup>87</sup> *Det Norske Nobel Institutt Arkivskaper*, 11-1,1948.

<sup>88</sup> Vyacheslav Mikhailovich Skriabin (1890-1986) known as Molotov, takes his nickname from the Russian word *molot* which means *hammer*. Active in the Bolshevik movement since 1906. Later he becomes a protégé of Stalin, Prime minister in 1930 and Foreign Minister between 1939 and 1949 and between 1953 and 1956. The improvised incendiary weapon called *Molotov cocktail* received his name from the Finnish Army during the Winter War.

<sup>89</sup> Andrei Oțetea (1894-1977) was a Romanian historian, professor at the universities from Iași and Bucharest, specialist in Middle Age and Modern History. After the Second World War he becomes director of the "Nicolae Iorga" Institute of History, member of the Romanian Academy, Vice-President of the Latin Academy in Paris and member of the French Society of Modern History. He has published studies on the history of the Byzantine Empire, the Renaissance and was editor of the history magazine *Revue Roumaine d'Historie*.

<sup>90</sup> Ion Nestor (1876-1962) was a historian and politician, member of the Romanian Academy. He studied in Munich, Leipzig and Berlin and became professor at the University of Vienna in 1911, where he gave lectures on the history of the Romanians. Returned to Romania, he was actively involved in the political actions that led to the unification of Bessarabia with Romania in 1918. Member of government under Ioan I.C. Brătianu, minister for Bukovina and for Bessarabia, Minister of Public Works and Labor during the interwar period, he broke out with the Liberal Party in 1939 and went to support the dictatorship established by King Carol II. He was probably forced to sign the recommendation letter for Molotov in 1948, being arrested by the Communists and imprisoned only a couple of years later in 1950.

<sup>91</sup> Anton Dumitriu (1905-1992) was a mathematician by initial formation who obtained a PhD in philosophy and was among the first philosophers in Romania interested in the philosophy of science, a subject he treated in *The Philosophical bases of Science*. He introduces in Romania the latest mathematical logic, mostly by his works *The New Logic* and *The Polyvalent Logic*. He researched the problem of logical-semantic paradoxes, convinced that the solution to them was already available in the works of the Scholastic philosophers. He

invoked to back this candidacy was Molotov's effort to support *peace and democracy*<sup>93</sup> during the Second World War and especially after the war had ended. This recommendation offers a glimpse into Romania's situation at the time and the harsh conditions the intellectuals were going through. It is difficult to imagine that all these historians were really convinced that the Soviet politician was a promoter of the ideas of peace. The letter is rather one of the concessions they were forced to make in order to be allowed to continue their researches in a country situated under extreme pressure from the Soviet Empire. It is unlikely that the Romanian historians would have so hastily forgotten Molotov's contribution in the signing of the Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact<sup>94</sup> with its disastrous consequences for Romania.

In conclusion, I can say that compared with other Nobel Prizes granted in Stockholm where an entire list of Romanian nominees for various scientific discoveries can be found<sup>95</sup>, the Romanian Peace Prize nominees are in lesser number and so far no Romanian, if we except Elie Wiesel<sup>96</sup>, enjoyed the prestige of winning the Nobel Peace Prize.

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was a member of the Mediterranean Academy in Rome, the Marchese Academy of Ancona and was honorary professor at the University of Paris.

<sup>92</sup> Emil Condurachi (1912-1987) was historian, archaeologist, and member of the Romanian Academy. A real scholar, his courses and books have become classical for the study of Romanian history.

<sup>93</sup> There are a number of recommendations for the Peace Prize that seem at least ironic given the attitude of the nominated to the cause of peace. There are, for example, letters sent for Mussolini in 1935 and one letter sent by a Swedish member of Parliament, Brandt, proposing Hitler for the Peace Prize in 1939. The Nobel Committee ignored some great people who deserved to be honored with the Peace Prize, among them Mahatma Gandhi who was nominated between 1937 and 1948. Det Norske Institutt Arkivskaper and [http://nobelprize.org/nobel\\_prizes/peace/nomination/nomination.php?string=Gandhi&action](http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/nomination/nomination.php?string=Gandhi&action)

<sup>94</sup> The Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact, named after the Soviet and the German foreign ministers was a Treaty of Non-Aggression between Soviet Russia and the Nazi Germany signed in the late hours of August 23, 1939. Each country pledged to remain neutral in the event that either nation was attacked by a third party. It remained in effect until June 22, 1941 when Germany attacked the Soviet Union. The Treaty included also a Secret Protocol dividing Northern and Eastern Europe into German and Soviet spheres of influence, anticipating the territorial and political rearrangements that followed the Second World War.

<sup>95</sup> [http://nobelprize.org/nobel\\_prizes](http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes).

<sup>96</sup> Elie Wiesel (b. 1928) is the first Romanian or rather Romanian born Jewish-American who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1986. The Second World War changed his life after he and his family were deported while under Hungarian administration to Auschwitz, along with 15,000 others Hebrews from Sighet. His parents died in the camp, as well as one of his sisters, the other two survived. In 1948 he began studying literature, philosophy and psychology at Sorbonne and became a journalist. In Paris, he met the writer François Mauriac who encouraged him to write about his memories of the camp. The volume appeared in 1958 under the name *Night* and stories the terrible experience of Jews in

Nevertheless, there was much speculation on account of the Nobel Peace Prize awarded in 1985 to the organization *International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War*<sup>97</sup> where, among its founders, is likely to have been also a Romanian. In Oslo, the prize was handed to Bernard Lown<sup>98</sup>, the representative of the United States, and to Yevgheny Chazov<sup>99</sup>, the representative of the Soviet Union. Granting the Nobel Peace Prize to this organization was understood as an attempt to mitigate the conflicts caused by the Cold War, sending an encouraging message to President Reagan and to Mikhail Gorbachev before their Geneva Summit of November 19, 1985. The Nobel Committee Chairman at the time, Egil Aarvik<sup>100</sup>, pointed out that the initiators of the institution were specially invited to Oslo to receive their Prizes<sup>101</sup>. It was alleged that the Romanian representative of *Physicians*

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concentration camps. In 1955 Wiesel moved to New York and in 1963 he became an American citizen, currently living in Connecticut. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1986 for speaking out against violence, repression and racism. The recommendations for the Nobel Prize came mostly from his adopted country. In July 2002, Elie Wiesel paid a visit to Romania, to his birth town Sighet, in order to inaugurate a memorial house. In 2005 he established *The Elie Wiesel National Institute for Holocaust Studies* in Romania. His book *Night* was in 2006 no.1 on the New York Times bestseller list.

<sup>97</sup> International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War was founded in 1980 on the initiative of American and Soviet doctors who wanted to contribute to the prevention of nuclear war, while defying the Cold War. They started a campaign of research and collaboration with Japanese physicians to collect data on the consequences of using nuclear weapons. [www.nobel.no/laureates/1985](http://www.nobel.no/laureates/1985).

<sup>98</sup> Bernard Lown (b. 1921) was an American physician and researcher of Lithuanian origin who invented in 1960 the defibrillator. Founder of organization *Physicians for Social Responsibility*, and then co-founder of *Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War*.

<sup>99</sup> Yevgheny Chazov (b. 1929) was a famous Soviet surgeon, specializing in cardiology, member of Russian Academy of Sciences, director of the Institute of Cardiology, Soviet representative to the WHO, co-founder of the above named organization. Responsible for the health of the majority of the leaders in Kremlin, he published his memoirs under the name *Health and Power* where he described the health status, mental or otherwise, of those leaders.

<sup>100</sup> Egil Aarvik (1912-1990) journalist and politician, member of the Christian Party. He became member of the Parliament in 1961, then Minister of Labor between 1965 and 1971. Member of the Nobel Committee from 1974 to 1990 and its President from 1982 to 1990.

<sup>101</sup> Since I did not have access to the recommendation letters of 1984 -1985 (the Nobel Institute archives are made public fifty years after the event), the main source of information was the Norwegian and foreign press from October to December 1985. That year, the media insisted on respect of human rights and accused Chazov of duplicity and hypocrisy because he signed a letter denouncing Andrei Sakharov in 1973. This caused a series of protests in the Norwegian capital, Chazov being suggested to refuse the Prize. The newspapers of the period make no reference to a Romanian as winner of the Nobel Peace prize for 1985. See: Karl Holl, Anne C. Kjelling, *The Nobel Peace Prize and the laureates: the meaning and acceptance of the Nobel Peace Prize in the prize winners' countries* (Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang, 1994), 22.

for the Prevention of Nuclear War, Ioan Moraru<sup>102</sup> was one of founders of this organization, being therefore invited also to receive the Prize. It was also supposed that Ceaușescu had denied him the necessary travel documents because he was jealous, being himself one of those dreaming to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. There is no documentation showing that Moraru received an invitation to Oslo as one of the founders of this institution. The Norwegian newspapers of December 1985<sup>103</sup> and other articles<sup>104</sup> on the subject mention only Lown and Chazov. Moraru is likely to have received an invitation to the ceremony as many others, but not as a recipient of the award. The acceptance speeches<sup>105</sup> were presented only by the two aforementioned representatives, with no indication to a Romanian numbering among the winners of this prize.

The Nobel Awards have often been accompanied by controversy. The most frequent accusation is that many awards have been granted to certain individuals based on interests or according to political conjectures<sup>106</sup>. It has been alleged that representatives of small states were often overlooked by the Oslo or Stockholm jury or that some of the Nobel laureates were, in fact, promoters of war, terrorism and had nothing to do with the struggle for peace. Answering these accusations, Geir Lundestad<sup>107</sup>, the Secretary of the Nobel Committee, pointed out that the

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<sup>102</sup> Ioan Moraru (1927-1989) professor and researcher, head of Pathology Department at the Romanian Institute of Medicine "Victor Babeș" in Bucharest. Because of his remarkable qualities he held senior positions in health care and medical research. He was among the Deputy Chairperson of the WHO Executive Board during the period Halvdan T. Mahler was its President (1973-1988), member and Vice-President of the Academy of Medical Sciences, President of the Romanian section of the Balkan Medical Union, President of the Society of Normal and Pathological Morphology, President of the National Electronic Microscopy Institute, Chairman of the National Immunology Institute, a member of the International Academy of Forensic Medicine, the WHO expert in human genetics, a member of the board of the International Union of Societies of Immunology, honorary member of the French Society of Immunology, board member of the Association International Phisiaciens for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW). He received posthumously the title of academician.

<sup>103</sup> *Det Norske Nobel Institutt, Avis arkiv, Newspapers Archives, oktober-desember 1985.*

<sup>104</sup> Irwin Abrams, "Origins of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, The James E. Muller Diaries," *Medicine, Conflict and Survival* 1 (January-March, 1999).

<sup>105</sup> [http://nobelprize.org/nobel\\_prizes/peace/laureates/1985/physicians-lecture.html](http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/laureates/1985/physicians-lecture.html)

<sup>106</sup> The most recent case which caused much controversy is that of Barack Obama. The Nobel laureate as well as the Nobel Committee were criticized by both Norwegian and international press. Vasilica Sirbu, "Impresii în urma unui Nobel pentru Pace," *Revista Română* 1, *Calendarul Activităților Despărțămîntului Astra « Mihail Kogălniceanu »* nr. 59 (2010).

<sup>107</sup> Geir Lundestad (n.1945) historian, researcher, director of the Nobel Institute and secretary of the Nobel Committee.

Nobel Prize has undoubtedly political effects, but no political intention. The Nobel Committee has shown a flexible approach to the concept of peace, especially in recent decades, giving a broad interpretation of Alfred Nobel's Testament. Under the broad umbrella covered by the concept of peace are nowadays included different achievements in conflict prevention, the fight for democracy and human rights, poverty eradication and environmental policies, the concept of war acquiring a new definition, in opposition to its classical interpretation.

Romanians have always been a part of these efforts for a better world. The scientific and cultural map of Europe would have been poorer without their contributions, even though their efforts were not rewarded with the Nobel Prize.

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