

**From Sovereignty to Independence.
The Case of Republic of Moldova (I)**
(Abstract)

Constantin CORNEANU

Keywords: RSSM, Gorbaciov, Snegur, Frontul Popular, KGB, PCUS, PCM, Moldova.

The road to sovereignty and, later on, to independence for the people living in the space between Prut and Nistru and not only, has been developed in the context of the dissolution process of USSR as a consequence of glasnosti politics and Perestroika initiated by Mihail S. Gorbaciov. The Movement of Rebirth of Romanians from RSSM was an unique and unrepetable phenomenon that surprised the Kremlin with the amplitude of the whole movement. Starting with May 20, 1989, The Movement of National Rebirth from RSSM will be led by the Popular Front of Moldova, an emanation of the Congress organized by Initiative Group of Democratic Movement for Restructuring Support. The study aims to reveal the evolution of the relationship between the Romanian majority of the Moldova's citizens that were proclaiming the ethnic identity and their right to secession from USSR in 1989-1991, and the russophone political elites that were in power in this Soviet republic. As long as this Popular Front from Moldova will be involved in the power management at Chisinau, there were the premises for the proclamation of the sovereignty of Republic of Moldova and, later on, in the process of USSR dissolution the proclamation of independence on August 27, 1991 as a consequence of the failure of the putsch from Moscow on August 19-21, 1991. In this complicated process of identity affirmation project from Republic of Moldova, the Movement of National Rebirth was supported by Romania through its diplomatic representatives from Foreign Affairs Ministry after 1989 but will remain a great historical controversy in regards to the accreditation of the second Romanian state. The acknowledgment of the existence of "an independent Romanian state on the forced annexed territories by the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact" was "a decisive step for erasing in a peaceful way its unfortunate consequences, against the Romanian rightful interests" as mentioned in the Declaration of the Romanian Government. The acknowledgment of the independence of Republic of Moldova on August 27, 1991, did generate neither a national consensus nor a strategy to eradicate the History's unfairness. The relationship between Romania and the Republic of Moldova will prove in the last two decades very difficult in spite of existence of a common historical and cultural past, an identity and a heritage that ensures a closeness degree.

