

The Imagery of the Allies on the Romanian Front in 1917

(Abstract)

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During the First World War, the imageries of the French and Russian allies on the Romanian war front cannot be understood without the events from 1917 and the previous year and without the general imagery referring to Russian and French allies in the Romanian society. The failure of the promises made by the French allies' generated disappointment between the Romanian combatants and the passivity of the Russian troops located on Romanian territory has only served to confirm some existing fears. The Russian ally imagery will not have significant improvement over 1917, rather it will worsen gradually, influenced by the spread of the Bolshevik ideas and dissolution of the Russian army. The Russian Bolshevik troop behavior arouses anxiety and causes the contempt of the Romanian combatants. The front leaving by the Russian allies causes riot being perceived as an act of treason. The Russian ally image consists of aspects of physical and moral issues and has distinct elements according to the military degree of the portrayed ally being able to talk about shaping an image of the soldiers and an image of the officer corps, where it is made the distinction between the old army officers, educated and friendly and the new arrogant and unskilled army officers. The image of the French ally image has a predominant positive note, although negative aspects are mentioned in the writings of combatants. If the first French allies were greeted with distrust and stoicism, then, their skillfulness and contribution to the reorganization and training of the Romanian army were assessed. The French ally image outlined among the combatants is composed, like the Russian ally image, by the physical aspects and moral issues. Unlike the image of the Russian ally, this is a picture of the officer corps from the French Military Mission, not being able to talk about shaping an image of the soldiers. This is a highly personalized image, French officers living among the Romanian combatants being the expression of the French ally imagery.