

Liberalism, Liberals, and Political Modernity

Varieties of Romanian Liberalisms, 1859-1881*
(Abstract)

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This paper focuses on the leaders, characteristics, and attributes of the various strains of Romanian liberalism between 1859 and 1881. This is significant because self-described liberals dominated Romanian political life for much of the modern era. Its second purpose is to elaborate on the main distinctives of three of the most prominent liberal groups which manifested themselves in this era. It also strives to give more importance to the influence of German liberalism on Romanian development. Finally, it surveys some of the consequences for Romanian political culture of the peculiar development of Romanian liberalisms during the period under consideration.

* This study is dedicated to the memory of Apostol Stan (1933-2022), who did more to elaborate the history of Romanian liberalism than anyone. Though we did not always agree, we always could agree to disagree, something not entirely as common as one would hope.

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