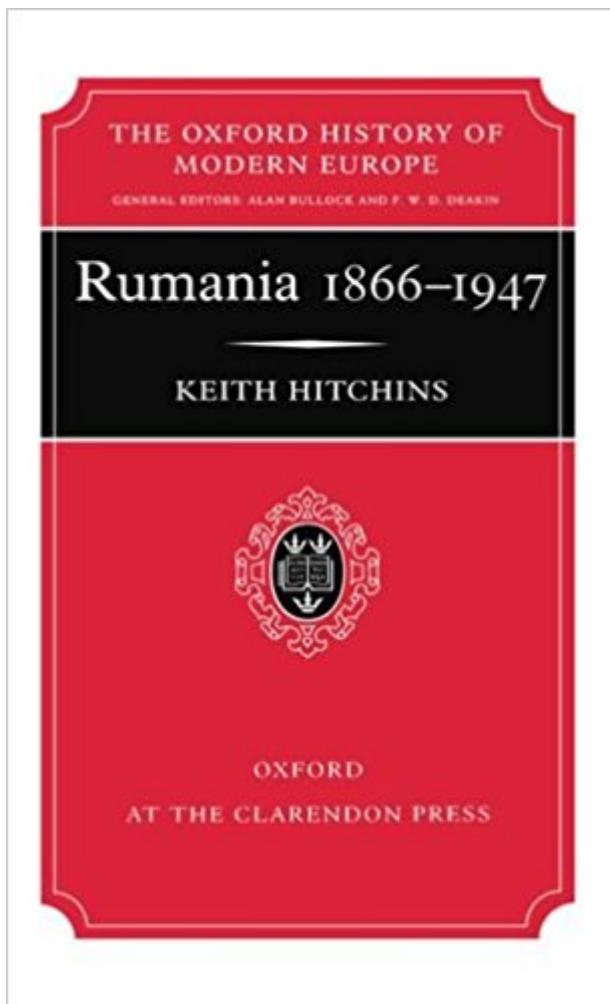


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# Rumania 1866-1947 (Oxford History Of Modern Europe)



## **Synopsis**

This latest volume in the acclaimed Oxford History of Modern Europe series looks at the collapse of Communist power which has once again focused attention on the processes of nation-building in central and eastern Europe. In this comprehensive study, Keith Hitchins focuses on how Rumania's political and intellectual elites attempted to establish an independent state before the advent of Communist rule in 1947. It traces the efforts of the country's leaders to create the institutions of a modern state, to "Europeanize" without losing national identity, and to find ways of preserving independence in the international political and economic order dominated by the great powers. In his study, Hitchins emphasizes how Rumania's past history is essential to a clear understanding of its complex present and future.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

"Well written, thoughtful, and useful to anyone interested in the formation of the modern Romanian nation....A welcome addition to The Oxford history of Modern Europe series and to the general historical literature on Romania."--Choice "This important volume in The Oxford History of Modern Europe must be read by specialists and students focusing on Romania or Eastern Europe, but it will also interest the general reader. No previous work has covered this topic with such competence, clarity, and intellectual breadth....anyone working on the history of modern Romania from now on will have to begin with Hitchins' views."--The Historian

Keith Hitchins is a Professor of History at University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

This is the second book of the two volume history of Rumania that was written by Keith Hitchens. This deals with the turbulent years of Rumania from the formation of the nation out of the territory of the old Ottoman Empire up to the founding of the Communist government at the end of the Second World War.

When it comes to Romanian history, there is no greater English-language expert than Keith Hitchins. Over the past several decades he has established his mastery of the subject with works exploring the emergence of modern Romania and the development of Romanian nationalism in the 18th and 19th centuries. As such, he was a natural choice as the author of the volume on Romania for the Oxford History of Modern Europe, and he does not disappoint, providing a masterful account of the nation from its gradual independence in the mid-19th century to the Soviet-directed takeover by the Communist Party after World War II. While Hitchins's narrative encompasses the country's social and economic development, politics is his main focus, particularly in his concentration on the evolution of Romanian nationalism and on the debates over what sort of nation Romania should become. This came at an interesting time in European history, with nationalism maturing as a political concept on a continent still consisting of multinational empires. As a nationality that gained a country during this period, Romanians faced choices over how their country should develop, with Romanian intellectuals and politicians arguing between the often-contrasting demands of industrialization and the maintenance of the traditional agricultural economy as a cornerstone of Romanian identity. Often the grand designs proposed by leaders were frustrated by the limited resources available, yet Romania enjoyed considerable success politically, expanding as a result of fortuitous decisions during the European conflicts of the period before being cornered into an association with Nazi Germany in the late 1930s, one that would serve as an excuse for Soviet domination in the aftermath of the war. Lucidly written and backed by a sure command of the historical literature, Hitchins's book is essential reading for anyone seeking to learn about the history of this underappreciated nation. Though some readers might find his extensive coverage of Romanian nationalism tedious, it offers a fascinating glimpse of a newly founded nation coming to terms with its course in the modern era. As such it is of interest not just to students of Romanian history but to anyone seeking to learn about the development of nationalism in modern Europe, particularly outside of the traditional western European-centric focus in so many other accounts of this topic. Together these factors make it a worthy addition to the Oxford History of Modern Europe series, one unlikely to be surpassed anytime soon as a history of its subject.

I have found the book excellent for a historical review of the years 1866-1947, well documented and pleasant to read. It describes the struggle of a nation to come into existence and to modernise. The book is not only a list of historical events, but more a monography of the everyday life. The author has an original way of describing the events of that time. I consider the book one of the best in this subject, recommended for anyone who wants to know more (than the fictitious Dracula) about Rumania's history.

A very elegant book , written in an elegant , clear style . True to the historical context , with no biased interpretation of the subject matter , yet compassionate and open . Excellent !

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