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## TEZĂ DE DOCTORAT

**IMPACTUL ADMINISTRAȚIEI HABSBURGICE ASUPRA  
MEDIULUI URBAN DIN SUDUL TRANSILVANIEI**

**– secolele al XVII-lea – al XVIII-lea –**

doctorand:

**Răzvan C. POP**

conducător științific:

**prof. univ. dr. Karl Zeno PINTER**

# THE IMPACT OF THE HABSBURGIC ADMINISTRATION UPON THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT OF SOUTHERN TRANSYLVANIA XVII<sup>th</sup> – XVIII<sup>th</sup> CENTURIES

## SUMMARY

The explanation of this thesis is a minimal one: to establish how the Medieval Transylvanian city was completed and then transformed into the Baroque and modern city. Hence the nuances retained by the title of the work, but also some nuances brought by the historiography and conceptual reality of the study of the cities in Romania.

We chose the South of Transylvania because the urbanization was much stronger and more prominent in this area, compared to the Northern voivodate and then Principality. The German world strongly presented in this geographic area has made possible the active urbanization of the area. In the Northern Transylvania, an area controlled by the noble families of the country, the examples are fewer, the two cities coming in front are Cluj and Bistrita, to which we add Baia Mare.

In the south, the German communities have taken on an urban pattern in all their urban structures, that have reached a mature development level in the classical era of the Middle Ages. Thus, in addition to large cities, urban patterns are found in most rural localities, Biertan or Prejmer being exemplary in this respect.

We are interested in the impact of the Habsburg administration because it played a decisive historical role in the cultural evolution of Transylvania. The coming and then the implementation of the Vienna administrative concepts are basically the transition to the Modern period, the end of the Principality being from our point of view the end of the Renaissance period and the transition to the already mentioned period. In our opinion, it is because Transylvania was permanently in the Western European cultural area, we chose to use the historical evolution of the province in accordance with the evolutionary periods of whole of Europe.

For this reason, on the whole content of this paper, we have always identified the causality of the Transylvanian Principality of the 17<sup>th</sup> century and surprised the entire process of reforming the Empire, which took place throughout the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

We were interested in capturing the state of research in this field, both at European and especially at national level. Returning to the actual work, we tried to capture the historical context of the period with a more detailed analysis of the Habsburg counteroffensive after the siege of Vienna in 1683 and obviously of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. We tried to capture the legislative context of the

period, especially the Teresian and Josephine reforms. We researched the city in an descending from the European structure, to the Transylvanian one. In this analysis we highlighted three models of urban development as well as three cases of urban structures in 18<sup>th</sup> century Transylvania, all developed in the context of mainstream integration into the Habsburg political, administrative and bureaucratic structure.

Transylvania goes through the centuries from a distinct state entity to a province of a multinational Empire, specific to the Enlightenment period. This road must not be seen so radically. It is traced from a distinct but permanent entity under the sovereignty of neighboring powers to a privileged province with wide autonomy within the Habsburg Empire.

Following the administrative changes brought by the Habsburgs, we can conclude that the old central institutions of the Principality are losing importance, the Prince becomes a mere puppet of Vienna and the Diet was regulating only minor issues. We see how the old Medieval institutions created by the Principality succumb to the new institutions brought by the Habsburg Enlightenment.

The 17<sup>th</sup> century is actually the road of Transylvania from Medieval and Renaissance state towards Modernity. Transylvania starts at the beginning of this century with its well-defined institutions both administratively and religiously. The way they were organized, is showing a clear interest in building of a state in the special conditions of multiculturalism and multi-autonomism in this region. Transformed Europe, after the conflicts of this century, will make Transylvania unable to withstand, although it has crystallized its distinct identity from the state to the old medieval Kingdom of Hungary.

If at the beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, Transylvania had a Princes, a Diet and a Royal Council, at its end, the situation was different, having a Gubernator, a Government and other institutions that totally controlled and integrated the province into the Empire. The Principality is just a form. What is surprisingly resist are the institutions of internal autonomy, such as the Saxon University.

The Empire instead takes over all the province's essential administrative lines. It takes over the legislation, it takes over the Army, it takes over the judiciary and the economic system. For each they create new structures that linked the province directly to Vienna, bypassing the Diet and the Princes. Thus, we can see how the economy and local law were integrated.

An analysis of the legislation and of the main administrative regulations that had an effect on Transylvania during the Habsburg period helps us to establish a temporal horizon of the Habsburg impact on the Transylvanian province. Thus, we can say that this administration is divided into two essential periods, one of the implementation of the Habsburg state concept and one of its completion. A third step is that of Austro-Hungarian Dualism.

The influence and impact of the Habsburg administration on Transylvania are the most visible in this period, as it is the period when the transformation of the Principality into an imperial province becomes capital and defiant. At the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, we found another state of Transylvania with little relation to the old Medieval state other than the historical ones.

This period can, in turn, stage in stages, different by the role and the inheritance they have left. A first step is the issue and implementation of the Leopoldine Diploma, the province's capital law. This stage is characterized by a strong traditional and local essence of Medieval origin but in the same period we can notice the first steps towards the habsburgization and modernization of Transylvania.

A second step is that of Maria Theresia, the Empress who, through her regulations, managed an administrative reconfiguration of Transylvania. Basically, at this stage we see a renovation of the province's body.

All this led to the third stage, that of the Josephine regulations. They succeed in replacing the Medieval, autonomous, traditional essence of Transylvania with a modern, unitary one, totally different from what it was up to now.

Under the guidance of the same law-making bodies, in the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century we can say that there was a regulated program of construction in Transylvania. What, however, did not exist was its consistency and its generality. We can not say that in Transylvania and especially in the cities of southern Transylvania there was a unitary and long-lived urbanization project. Transylvania did not have a case, like Brussels, where Emperor Joseph II decides massive interventions to modernize and change the city's appearance.

There have been institutional projects, limited in time, there have been particular steps of some great noblemans or provincial officials. The Enlightenment ideas have been linked with administrative projects. The first project was the Jesuit one, with an ecclesiastical origin. This genuine avant-garde of the Habsburg bureaucracy was the first entity to impose a city building program. The Jesuit complexes did not strictly mean their monasteries. They are the ones who built the first churches of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, they built schools, orphanages but also proposed elements of urban furniture. They altered alignments, perspectives, and volumes. Jesuits are the first to implement new urban concepts, the best example being the transformation of the Large Square in Sibiu by urban recalibration and the reconfiguration of the north west alignment of this central space.

The second coherent project is the military one. The firsts to intervene directly on the Transylvanian cities are the military decides of the Empire and the rich ones of the fresh province.

Provincial fortification efforts are the ones that change the look of the fortress towns. They extend the city to the extreme space. Military urbanity changed the appearance of an entire territory,

as in the case of Alba Iulia. It is worth mentioning the existence of the Transylvania Fortifications Office, headquartered in Alba Iulia, which dealt with the entire military building program. This program has altered not only the medieval appearance of the cities and the province in general, but has also modified volumes, alignments, open spaces and perspectives.

In Transylvania, the primordial urban example was the city of Vienna, the capital of the Empire. The legislation of this city, the advancement of the Imperial residence on the right bank of the Danube, the organization of the suburbs, the construction of the great palaces outside the medieval nucleus, all these were the main models of urbanization in Transylvania. In Sibiu, for example, an archaeological research has revealed an advance within the Large Square of all buildings, built after 1700.

In Transylvania, we notice two stages of the Baroque, one at the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, influenced directly by Jesuit precepts, thus a Jesuit Baroque and another one in the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, a Baroque influenced by philosophy of time, so an Enlightenment Baroque.

It is right that these rethinkings of Transylvanian cities are not contemporary to the great European theories, nor are they widely used. They arrive in Transylvania to a considerable chronological difference, big cities being the ones that took advantage.

The Transylvanian towns retained their Medieval features but at the same time they underwent a series of 18<sup>th</sup> century urban planning changes. It is the case of the suburbs, where the agrarian citizens of the cities, then the officials of the new Empire, and finally the new urban citizens of the province, will settle.

We chose to present in the present research, three South-Transylvanian examples, which we consider eloquent about the different ways of approaching the urban problem of Transylvania and the south of the province. Alba Iulia is a radically altered urban space. Sibiu is an urban space that has undergone changes with an urban character, but it is not destroying the city but transporting it to a new evolutionary period. Sighisoara is the example of stagnation, here the urban interventions are minor, altering our medieval character.