

CÂND BUSOLA NU MAI ARATĂ ESTUL. ROMANITATE ORIENTALĂ IERI ȘI ASTĂZI

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When Compass does not Point East Anymore. Roman World in the Past and Today

We speak today of Romanian as a “Latin island” in a “Slavonic sea”. The Roman culture and civilization have influenced most cultures and civilizations that came into contact with, and this concerns mainly the European continent. The history of connections between the two parts (West, East) means somehow the history of Europe. East-West cleavages have their explanation in the historical evolution of the relations between West and East formerly parts of the Roman Empire.

It seems that this story has several milestones and starts when the imperial capital was moved to Constantinople, continued with the adoption of the Christianity and with the division of the Roman Empire into two (all in the fourth century AD). On a background of internal disturbances in the Roman-Byzantine state, an important overflow of Slavs into the Balkan Peninsula took place in 602, this has significantly altered the ethnic composition of the entire area.

During the VIIth–VIIIth centuries the massive Muslim conquests included from the Christian centers of Antioch, Jerusalem and Alexandria, favoured the emancipation of Rome, ecclesiastically speaking, from the authority of Constantinople. The West-East cultural remoteness is deepened in addition by the establishment of the Papal States (754), by the foundation of the Carolingian State (800) and by the Great Schism of 1054.

Nowadays we find that Romanity appears not to be a coordinate of geopolitical and cultural relevance. Perhaps one of the three overlapping identities (European, national, local), could be undertaken as part of the national identity at least at that time.

Key-words: *the Roman world, East-West cleavages, Roman origin as an identity landmark.*

Cuvinte-cheie: *romanitate, clivaje Răsărit–Apus, romanitate orientală ca marcă identitară.*

Vorbim astăzi de romanitate, romanitate occidentală și orientală, limbi și culturi neolatine, entități separate și distincte. Mai vorbim, cu mai mult sau mai puțin teme, și de „romanitate orientală”, cam ca o excepție, precum și de români ca de o „insulă latină” într-o „mare slavă”.

Fără îndoială, rădăcina tuturor acestor limbi și culturi neolatine este una comună.