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Un défi historiographique: la naturalisation dans le Royaume roumain (1881–1914)

(Abstract)

The naturalization principle plays a major role in the institutional development of the Romanian Kingdom. Any approach to the history of the ethnic minorities of this state must start from the claim that, far from being ignored by historians, Romanian scholarship treated this issue as a marginal topic until very recently. The concepts of citizenship and national identity in the Romanian Kingdom are far more challenging. They cannot be limited to the interpretation of the Romanian legislation drawn up in the second half of the 19th century, to the Jews' status in Romanian Kingdom and that of the population in Dobrudja after this province had been annexed by the Romanian state. A prosopographical study of the applicant for Romanian citizenship turns out to be indispensable on the background of scarce information provided by statistics. Regrettably, such a study remains a real challenge for Romanian historians.