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INTRODUCTION

For the first time an attempt has been made to analyze the political, ethnical, cultural, socioeconomic, and historical changes, particularly between 1944 and 1989, of the national minorities in Romania. The author's main objective is to give a factual picture of the existing conditions among the nationalities, also covering, however, the period between the two world wars.

As a topic of considerable complexity, in order to give an exact picture of the situation it was necessary to use almost all the available scientific works and studies published in the West, as well as other written material. This included an analysis of official documents, data, declarations and reports in the press that were not free of political and ideological doctrine; information provided by individuals that were not published but were considered reliable; and the personal experience of the author in the country as well as a study of the limited available material from Romania concerning immediate postwar years.

The status and its faithful historical development are the center of the book. A short summary of its history, indispensable for a better understanding, follows:

The two largest and most significant national minorities, the Hungarians and the Germans, played a dominant role in the historical development of the country and the evolution of its culture. The situation of other nationalities is also analyzed, particularly that of the Roma, a minority which today is numerically insignificant but which played an important role in the development of the country's