

MACEDO-ROMANIAN ECONOMIC SUCCESSES OF THE HABSBURG EMPIRE IN THE EIGHTEENTH AND NINETEENTH CENTURIES

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(Received September 2014; accepted October 2014)

Abstract

Skilled tradesmen, Macedo-Romanians settled in the Habsburg Empire after their home expulsion, taking advantage of the opportunities offered by liberalism that just grow, they constituted a vigorous economic force. Merchants industrialists and bankers, they contribute greatly to the development of the Empire, leaving posterity good things, engaging quite often as patrons (supporters of culture) of the Romanian community in the Empire. This paper, using qualitative research based on the study of social documents, would like to substantiate the hypothesis by which entrepreneurship can be developed in any historical moment, even at the early capitalism, regardless of culture, social class of the human being, level of education, when will created optimal conditions for its expression. What happened during the period of the XVIII – XIX centuries, in the Habsburg Empire, today can be a good example for free enterprise-oriented economic policies that could be promoted today, generating important benefits for the whole society

Keywords: Macedo-Romanian, entrepreneurship spirit, cultural and religious freedom, economic success

J.E.L. CODES: N33

1. Introduction

Entrepreneurship can occur in any society at any historical moment sector, for any business, regardless of its size. He has a long history as an upward trend in Europe and the USA. In Romania today, entrepreneurship is still under construction, although throughout history, examples of successful Romanian business and society there are (including the period of early capitalism).

What aim of this paper is to present entrepreneurship as a process of thinking, creating and developing a business that exists in human beings, regardless of national culture, social class, education level from it comes. This process should only stimulated by external environmental factors, like socio-economic items, to activate creativity, innovative thinking, desire for improvement and risk taking by individual actions.

Using qualitative research method based on the study of social documents with reference to written documents over un-figures and figures, the study regarding the entrepreneurship spirit, materialized Macedo-Romanian successes (few selected

cases relating to individuals), which for historical reasons have learned during their existence in a unique socio-economic context.

Historical Habsburg Empire as a whole was, ethnically, a conglomeration of heterogeneous national communities which noted that important to us, the Romanian community. This feature also enjoy the Hungarian capital Budapest and the capital of the Empire, Vienna. In the eighteenth century, especially after the destruction of Moscopole by Turkish troops in 1788, Macedo-Romanian exodus west and north-west Europe reached the top before coming. Macedo-Romanian and Greeks, skilled tradesmen, have fled their homes and arrived in the Romanian Principalities, Hungary, Serbia, Austria, Poland, seeking an economic environment favourable to development.

The selection of places was not random. Trade between the Orient and Occident, Macedo-Romanian merchants have established relationships with the inhabitants of these regions since the time when starting from Moscopole, Kozani and Bitola, the Macedonian settlements rich and thriving, they were trading sometimes Danube barges loaded with grain, hides, linen, silver.

Period Macedo-Romanian migration to Western Europe coincided with the reign of Emperor Joseph II of Habsburg (1741-1790) who gave the *Edict of tolerance where cultural and religious freedom was assured them.*

2. Literature review

Qualitative research as method used in this paper is, as mentioned Chelcea (2007, p.76) that which "... involve the use and collection of a variety of empirical materials - case study, personal experience and insight, life story, interview, observation, historical texts, visual or covering subject-object interaction in order to describe the ordinary and special moments in the lives of individuals and their meanings for them."

Based on these considerations we went to reconstitute social and economic life of the Habsburg Empire during sec. XVIII -XIX using indirect observation - testimonies of contemporaries about the phenomenon called entrepreneurship and entrepreneurs - leading portrait of Macedo-Romanian (in our case), contained in the literature of The Research Institute of Romanians in Hungary - Gyula, The Centre for Studies Transylvania on the Romanian Academy - Branch Cluj Napoca, and the profile works: books, magazines, newspapers and statistical data referring to the period in Romania and Hungary.

The literature review above, present some of the famous Macedo-Romanian families and their economic activities, coming to substantiate the *hypothesis by which entrepreneurship can be developed in any historical moment, even at the early capitalism, regardless of culture, social class, level of education when they are created optimal conditions for its expression.*

Two brothers Atanasiu and Constantin Grabovsky, Macedo-Romanian emigrants, settled first at Miskolc and then around 1790 in Budapest. They were cloth merchants, who have developed businesses while reaching to hold in 1836 in

Budapest a building of its 33.000 Fl (florins) which operate the largest city's store cloth.

Recognizing the merits of existing services, our faithful Atanasiu and Constantin Grabovszky real brothers, citizens and merchants of free cities of Pest, the two brothers are given land by King Francis I half possession "Apadia" located in Caraş. Such Grabovszky name is attached and the noble title of "Apadia". This was mentioned in his work, by Berenyi (2013b).

George Grabovszky eldest son of Constantin Grabovszky worked in banking as a member of the board of banks in the Habsburg Empire, among we mention: The National Bank of Austria, The Commercial Bank of Pest Pest and the first Pesta Bank of Deposits. Towards the end of his active life on George Grabovszky find him as vice-president of several major businesses: Brewery, Steel mill from Salgotarjan and Briquette Factory from Vienna. The above mentioned specifications were found in the work of Bacskai (1989). The documents, recall that the Grabovszky was one of the largest contributors of Pest, paying in 1873, 1097 Fl (florins) as taxes.

In Vienna from 1788-1876, the colony of the Aromanian, Sina family occupies a significant position. Simeon Sina, the first family member arrived in Vienna, soon became a major figure in the world of banking, creating a bank that becomes the second largest in the Empire, after that of Rothschild. Furthermore, family members were busy growing tobacco that they have used with considerable profit during the Russian-Turkish War. Treating the Paşa of Vidin, Simon Sina manages to avoid continental blockade established by Napoleon in 1806, and bring the Turkish cotton then to process obtaining significant gains. These details encountered in his work documenting Djuvara (1996).

Simeon's son and his heir, was Gheorghe Simeon Sina who was said to have been "a real financial genius" (Revai Nagy Lexikon, 1924 - p.821). Gheorghe Simeon Sina manages to become a tycoon short period of industry, trade and finances of the Habsburg Empire, a situation that brought recognition from the monarchy. The Emperor Francis I of the gave his knighthood in 1818 and later in 1822, the rank of baron.

As time passed Sina's family fortune increases. Family takes possession of 240.000 acres of land in Austria, Hungary, Bohemia, Moravia and Romanian Principalities. The need to build a bridge between Buda and Pest, makes law to be adopted in 1836 to begin construction. The competition for the construction and financing of the bridge was a fiasco. This is why Gheorghe Sina, Vienna's banker, is asked to take over the business. Details of this business, were presented in the paper Népszabadság (1999) shows that it was negotiating several months under the newly established Chain Bridge Enterprise. He take the decision to issue shares that are bought with large sums, especially Macedo-Romanian community. Gheorghe Simeon Sina becomes president and principal shareholder of the company that builds the Chain Bridge. The company established to build the bridge receives the right to dispose of the bridge, a period of 97 years.

At the end of the bridge against the public willing, the company established the use of customs, which remains in force until 1918. Bridge tax is distributed rigorous: 1 buck pays a pedestrian if the pedestrian goes back or shoulders weighing pays 2 buck, an empty farm wagon pulled by a cow pay 5 buck, one drawn by two cows, 8 buck etc. To estimate the prices and see which (Wikipedia, 2014), at least approximately, revenue received on crossing the bridge recall that in 1849, the inauguration of the bridge, one florin was approximately 11,7 g of silver, and one buck around 0,2 g of silver.

Baron Gheorghe Sina held a series of cultural initiatives are among the sponsors of The National Museum, The National Theatre and the St Stephen's Basilica in Budapest, and Romanian Orthodox Cathedral in Arad with Mocioni family. For his merits was declared "honorary citizen" of cities Buda, Arad and Szeged. His fortune of 80 million Fl (florins) heir his son Simeon George Sina reaching it one of the richest people in Europe at that time. This aspect was mentioned in his work by Moisa (2013).

Simeon Gheorghe Sina made donations for the establishment of the Hungarian state institutions among which The Hungarian Insurance Society, The Hungarian Agrarian Loan, the Commercial Academy. For the edification of The Hungarian Academy, he subscribed amount of 80.000 Fl (florins). In a sign of high esteem, Simeon Gheorghe Sina's portrait is exhibited in the Great Hall of The Hungarian Academy. He also had a special relationship with Prince Alexandru Ioan Cuza to understand the capital investment in the United Romanian Principalities.

Another good example in support of the theme is Nako family, as Berenyi said in the work: Personalități marcante în istoria și cultura românilor din Ungaria (secolul XIX), which is descended from a very ancient Macedonian family. The brothers Cristofor and Ciril Nako, started commercial activities in Macedonia. Around 1760, the brothers expand their businesses. Cristofor goes to Hungary. His brother Ciril remain in Macedonia where take care to ensure the goods, especially grain and exotic fruits, for Cristofor, who do trade in Vienna and Presburg (Bratislava).

The brothers manage to establish a wool wash on leased land in the Grob, Sânicolaul Mare, Beșenova from Banat. In 1781 the brothers Nako buy land auction in Sânicolau Mare, Comloșul Mare and Teremia Mare. In 1784 the two brothers whose family business wealth increases, are ennobled to the rank of landowners (nemeși) of Sânicolaul Mare.

In 1801, descendants of the two brothers give Nako common affairs and the estate is divided between them: the estate of Sânicolaul Mare and Teremia-Comloș.

Wishing business development in Teremia-Comloș estate owners established in 1824 Lunga community, which is colonized by Romanian and German families. Estate owner, Count Ioan Nako, needing labor, forms groups of houses which assigns 138 of Romanian families and 100 of German families. These families are the main labor force employed on the estate owner.

Count Ioan Nako is the third generation of Nako noble family, being the grandson of Ciril, which has a considerable fortune and decides to stay in Budapest and Vienna. Great lover of theatre set their own theatre at Castle of Comloșul Mare,

where calls among other bands, Pascaly band Mihail Eminescu, who honors his invitation. Ioan Nako and his father Iosif Nako were involved as founders The Pest Ludovika Military Academy, where they contributed to the sum of 10.000 Fl. (florins). Ioan Nako has made significant financial contributions to the building of The National Theatre in Pest, especially the construction of The Hungarian Academy where he contributed 10.000 Fl. (florins). It should be noted that the Hungarian scientists forum worked until finish it own building, in Nako's palace in Budapest. All this information are mention in the work of Berenyi (2013a).

Emanuil Gojdu was born in Oradea in 1802, from his Macedo-Romanian father and which origins, from Hungarian sources, comes from a family away from Moscopol, originally established in Miskolc and then in Bihor. These issues are listed in the Crișana Monograph-Almanah, 1936 - Bihor Figures.

Studied law, endowed with real qualities get famous lawyer in Budapest where he get into high politics. The political activity is a proponent of "opportunistic nationalism" looking, but not on knees, understanding with Hungarians. His name is linked to patronage that makes for the good of the Romanian nation, acting by will establish a foundation financed by earnings acquired it, based on a development plan in time.

Foundation serves as Berenyi (2013, p.149) states "to distribute scholarships to those young Romanian Eastern Orthodox religion, distinguished by good behaviour and by talent, whose parents are not able to own their wealth, lead to achieving growth and nurturing of their children."

To understand the economic thinking of Emmanuel Gojdu, we will review the wealth of patronage which bequeath foundation plan that makes Emmanuel Gojdu to increase it so the foundation can work for a longer period of time. Gojdu's fortune was made in the house on Kiraly Street (in Budapest), villa in the estate of Rakos, shares in two banks in Budapest, furniture, silver, gold, precious stones, horses, cattle, carriages, etc.

In his will, Emmanuel Gojdu warns that the representative of Foundation has a duty to administer the estate left in order to enhance it in the following way: 54 bank shares to be so kept that they provide steady income for 50 years, between 1871 and 1921, two thirds of the revenue foundation to capitalize, and the third to be distributed in the form of scholarships for those young Romanian Eastern religion, distinguished by good behaviour and talents ... to be formed by school education. In the next 50 years, between 1921 and 1971 is capitalized three fifths of annual revenue, and two fifths of annual revenue, will reserve scholarships; over the next 50 years between 1971 and 2021, half of the revenue is capitalized, and the rest is donated young students, but also priests and teachers poor or elderly family hardships. For the next period, between 2021 and 2071 will be required by the establishment of a reserve fund of one tenth to stop capitalizing and the rest of the goods to help young students, priests and teachers need. The above mentioned features are described by Berenyi (2013a).

The will, proves a rational economic thinking, a sense of order and a soul open for the sake of the young Romanians need, who can raise their level of community

through teaching or older who have served the community of faith. Although, the foundation in the early years of the investing able to raise its capital at present time, due to unfavourable historical events and negligence and incompetence, it basically can not operate. Investing largest foundation, the seven buildings constructed between 1901 and 1903 which still exists today in Budapest and form "passage Gojdu" no longer belongs to him who has built - The Gojdu Foundation, that is being lost without compensation. These aspects were mentioned in the work of Berenyi (2013 b).

3. Research methodology

Charles Seignobos quoted by Chelcea (2007, p.508) said: "A document is only - a mark left by a fact" and what he said Seignobos, today we translates into nonreactive method of "analysis of social documents" on which is called today several times, after events occurred, so that their development has not undergone any change due to the study.

This research method was used in the present study, trying to help them to establish a link between past and present, as well as being a qualitative analysis approach involves detailed research of the spirit (attitude) entrepreneurship based which can provide an understanding of "deeper" phenomena, social processes than they could do by purely quantitative data. (Silverman, 2004)

After Chelcea, social documents are presented in written and unwritten form. Of those written for these are the documents that we used in the present study, we enumerate: figures (digital) documents (public and private, formal and informal) and un-figures (un-digital) documents (public and private, formal and informal).

As you can see from the work, rich information about entrepreneurship attitude of the Macedo-Romanian entrepreneurs developed during centuries XVIII-XIX have been obtained from unofficial public un-figures (un-digital) document analysis - action that is part of the current trend of social research documents. So I used: three studies undertaken by research institutes in Romania and Hungary, a monograph of the Crişana region, a report in the Hungarian press about that time, Wikipedia, and papers reflecting the theme treated in three documents (two - Hungary and one - Romania), they make up such a universe of feeling and thinking, age specific and geographical area (Chelcea, 2007).

Research of this type has been completed with the analysis of informal public figures (digital) documents, contained in a paper published in the Pest and Buda statistics from the XVII-XVIII centuries, related civil rights won by the people of Greek origin in the Habsburg Empire.

Research methodology thus determined, presents some limitations, as it was mentioned in the specific literature like: subjectivity of writing / analyse / comment on these documents, fragmentary and incomplete data communication. We must have the specifics of each type of document, as well as their particular form of embodiments. The value of the research documents consists in the fact that we can reconstruct the social facts. The fact noted by Chelcea (2007) and we can fill: understand construction, the factors influencing entrepreneurship at that time.

4. Findings

The analysis of social documents mentioned study concludes the following:

- entrepreneurship is formed by positive attitude, initiative, skills, social networking, talent and hard work, as they showed it the Macedo-Romanian persecuted in their own country;
- even if belonging the Byzantine Culture, being mostly poor condition (at least in the beginning), and education rather brief, yet their insight qualities and also gained in unfavourable conditions, have often helped them in time to be recognized and accepted by the society that has "adopted" - Habsburg Empire (The Edict of Tolerance which ensured their cultural and religious freedom);
- at the same time they expressed their gratitude and loyalty regarding the Empire, actively contributing to its welfare, thus contributing to the establishment of institutions, other social bodies, supporting cultural activities, and engaging in social and political life of the community that has "adopted".

5. Discussion

Banished from their native land by hostile forces who could not understand the benefits, it can bring, these skilled contractors for the community in which they were born, Macedo-Romanian found understanding and a favourable climate to the development of bourgeois type in the Habsburg Empire.

Macedo-Romanian of the Habsburg Empire, work, skills and talent, they got rich and influence people have set up banks, businesses, society as a whole they support them through donations, monumental buildings built today are proof of good taste and financial potential of those who built them in Budapest, Vienna, Szeged and Arad.

Financial capacity of Macedonian families is impressive for its time. By a simple calculation, we find for example, using data from 1849 when a 11,7 g silver Florin, represent that wealth Baron Gheorghe Sina, reached the equivalent to 8.000 kg of silver, that Grabovszky family was one of Pest city largest contributors, paying in 1873 taxes in the amount of 1.097 Fl.(florins). For outstanding achievements in economic and financial involvement in the socio-economic scale projects, several families were ennobled - 76 Greek and Macedonian families from Habsburg Empire received noble titles. The fact mentioned by the Hungarian historian Fuves (1963).

6. Conclusions

The politicians empire, understood in - a historical moment that was before them - opened as economic development, a great opportunity: Macedo-Romanian migration, people recognize as entrepreneurship developed spirit. Empire took advantage of this opportunity. It created the political, legal, cultural and education context that encouraged and supported the development of Macedo-Romanian bourgeoisie. This in turn expressed his gratitude and loyalty to the Empire (states and nations), actively contributing to its welfare.

Interpreting the above mentions, we can say that entrepreneurship can be developed in any historical moment, even at the early capitalism, regardless of culture, social class, level of education when they are created under "optimal expression". It leads to economic and social success of individual and collective as is the example of the Macedo-Romanians of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries Habsburg Empire.

In order to develop a better and more prosperous society, history gives us examples to follow, such as the Macedo-Romanian.

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