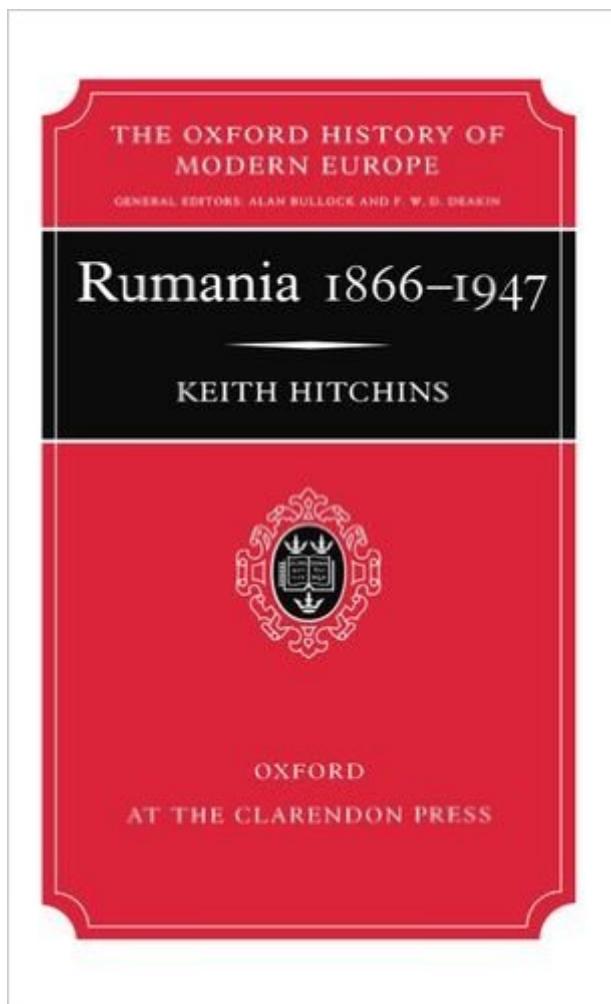


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Rumania 1866-1947 (Oxford History Of Modern Europe)



Synopsis

This latest volume in the acclaimed Oxford History of Modern Europe series looks at the collapse of Communist power which has once again focused attention on the processes of nation-building in central and eastern Europe. In this comprehensive study, Keith Hitchins focuses on how Rumania's political and intellectual elites attempted to establish an independent state before the advent of Communist rule in 1947. It traces the efforts of the country's leaders to create the institutions of a modern state, to "Europeanize" without losing national identity, and to find ways of preserving independence in the international political and economic order dominated by the great powers. In his study, Hitchins emphasizes how Rumania's past history is essential to a clear understanding of its complex present and future.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

When it comes to Romanian history, there is no greater English-language expert than Keith Hitchins. Over the past several decades he has established his mastery of the subject with works exploring the emergence of modern Romania and the development of Romanian nationalism in the 18th and 19th centuries. As such, he was a natural choice as the author of the volume on Romania for the Oxford History of Modern Europe, and he does not disappoint, providing a masterful account of the nation from its gradual independence in the mid-19th century to the Soviet-directed takeover by the Communist Party after World War II. While Hitchins's narrative encompasses the country's social and economic development, politics is his main focus, particularly in his concentration on the evolution of Romanian nationalism and on the debates over what sort of nation Romania should

become. This came at an interesting time in European history, with nationalism maturing as a political concept on a continent still consisting of multinational empires. As a nationality that gained a country during this period, Romanians faced choices over how their country should develop, with Romanian intellectuals and politicians arguing between the often-contrasting demands of industrialization and the maintenance of the traditional agricultural economy as a cornerstone of Romanian identity. Often the grand designs proposed by leaders were frustrated by the limited resources available, yet Romania enjoyed considerable success politically, expanding as a result of fortuitous decisions during the European conflicts of the period before being cornered into an association with Nazi Germany in the late 1930s, one that would serve as an excuse for Soviet domination in the aftermath of the war.

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