

RESTRICTIVE CENSORSHIP IN THE ROMANIAN PRESS IN TRANSYLVANIA DURING FIRST WORLD WAR: A CASE STUDY

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Abstract

One of the measures taken by the authorities during World War I, was the introduction of censorship, both mail and especially the media. The press was prohibited from publishing information on special war military preparations and any other information that could be demoralizing the civilian population or soldiers which was on the front. It is a phenomenon present throughout all countries involved in the war. Regarding the media censorship, it acted on two levels, as preventive and restrictive. Regarding the preventive aspect, we can't say much about the level at which was applied because we do not know the items that were banned from the stage of drafting. But in terms of restrictive, we can make a practical study on the number of articles that were censored, we can notice the lack of articles and the presence of white spaces in the newspapers that were published then. In Transylvania, local media suffered greatly, some newspapers were even suspended work indefinitely because the authorities considered the articles they published were too dangerous because of the information they transmitted. Regarding the publications that continued to appear, after choosing a sample of some Romanian periodicals from that time, noting the number and placement of stories censored restrictive, we make an analysis on the level of censorship present in those newspapers. Censorship is an issue which is found both in universal and national historiography, especially in terms of theoretical, legislative and administrative measures to implement censorship, all over the world. However, this study is the first one dealing with the practical analysis, statistical reflection of how harsh was applied the restrictive censorship in the Romanian press in Transylvania, to conclude that Romania entered the war influenced the application of censorship in Transylvania, it becomes much tougher.

Keywords: Censorship, First World War, Transylvania, Press