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***LA BESSARABIE AU XIX<sup>E</sup> ET AU XX<sup>E</sup> SIECLES:  
SUJET MULTICULTUREL DE L'HISTOIRE EUROPEENNE  
OU OBJET GEOPOLITIQUE?***

**BESSARABIA, DURING THE XIX<sup>TH</sup> - XX<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES, A  
MULTICULTURAL EUROPEAN AREA OR AN OBJECT OF THE  
GEOPOLITICAL INTERESTS?**

*- Abstract -*

Until the formation of the Republic of Moldavia, Bessarabia had never been an independent state and hence it never played a real role on the stage of European international relations. In fact, during its whole history, Bessarabia had always been the target of some geopolitical interests by far exceeding the interests of its local people.

These geopolitical interferences had an important role in molding the cultural identity of the inhabitants of Bessarabia, who were living at a crossroads, in an area where several cultures get merged. On one hand, this situation proved to be benefic, but it was also a major source of confusion for the process of shaping a coherent and well formed identity.

*Keywords:* Bessarabia, XIX<sup>th</sup> - XX<sup>th</sup> centuries, geopolitics, multicultural area