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***NICOLAE IORGA ET LE CENTENAIRE DE L'ENLEVEMENT
DE LA BESSARABIE (1812-1912)***

NICOLAE IORGA AND THE CENTENNIAL OF BESSARABIA'S
RAPTURE

- Abstract -

The author presents the rich activity carried out by N. Iorga with the occasion of the centennial of Bessarabia's rapture by Tsarist Russia on May 16, 1812. The great historian held a series of public conferences and printed many articles lamenting the fate of the Bessarabian Romanians under foreign occupation.

He saw the event of May 16, 1912 as a commemoration, condemning the grand celebrations which were taking place in Chişinău and in the entire Bessarabia. The famous historian called upon Romanians to organise commemorative actions which, however, turned into true protests against the Eastern Empire which was forcedly keeping millions of brothers. In the entire country - Bucharest, Iaşi, Craiova, Ploieşti or Buzău - imposing solidarity meetings were organised. The Bessarabian Romanians were not deceived by the Tsarist propaganda and did not come in great numbers to the official celebrations. For all Romanians, May 16, 1912 was a day of national mourning.

Keywords: Nicolae Iorga, Bessarabia, centennial, annexation