

**CITIZENSHIP, CONSTITUTIONALISM AND DEMOCRACY. A  
REFLECTION ON A SOCIETY IN TRANSITION FROM  
TOTALITARIANISM TO DEMOCRACY**

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## Historical and political background

Romania is a country in Eastern Europe, inhabited for the most part by the Romanian people, who were formed north and south of the Danube, more precisely in the historical provinces of Dacia and Moesia, from the synthesis between the Dacians and the Romans. It is believed that the first appearance of the term "Roman" is in the letter of Neacșu of Câmpulung in 1521, which is considered the oldest written document preserved in the Romanian language. It is generally accepted that the term "roman" had already entered the language long before it was written down.

Romania, as a state, was founded in 1859 by the union of two provinces, Moldova and Wallachia, under the leadership of Alexandru Ioan Cuza, bearing the name of United Principalities of Moldova and Wallachia or Old Kingdom. However, in 1859 not all the provinces where Romanian was spoken were part of it. So the process of forming Romanian status continued, and in 1918 three more provinces - Bessarabia, Bukovina and Transylvania - were united with the Kingdom of Romania (called the Old Kingdom). Thus, Greater Romania, as some call it, resulted from the two stages of unification, the Little Union (1859) and the Great Union (1918). Romania's national day was marked differently in different periods, namely: between 1861-1866 it was 24 January; between 1869-1947 it was 10 May; between 1948-1989 it was 23 August; since 1990, by law no. 10 of 31 July 1990, the national day was established as 1 December.

In Romania's history, there have been two main forms of government, namely monarchy and republic. Before constitutional monarchy (1881-1947) was officially accepted as a form of government, Romania was ruled by monarchs from the German Imperial Family. Still, we can speak of the Royal Family of Romania since King Ferdinand I. The rule of constitutional monarchy in Romania came to an unconstitutional end with the coup d'état of 30 December 1947, following the military occupation of Eastern European countries, including Romania, by the Soviet Union.

The concept "the form of government" is "the outward expression of the essence of the state, determined by the structure and legal condition of the supreme institutions of state power"<sup>1</sup>. As far as the monarchy is concerned, it is understood as "a political regime where a single person rules based on the hereditary right"<sup>2</sup>. Also, based on the Greek meaning of the term 'monarchía' (μοναρχία), a term composed of 'monos' - 'single' and 'arche' - 'first', 'ruling'. "Republic" (lat. res publica - "public affairs") is a "form of government in which citizens hold and exercise sovereign power through elected representatives (parliament, president)"<sup>3</sup>, and "republic is considered the most democratic form of government"<sup>4</sup>.

Following pressure from the Soviet Union, after 1944, representatives of the Romanian Communist Party, which had been outlawed between 1924 and 1944, were infiltrated into the Romanian government and gradually removed from public office by people who were not members of this party. Thus, in March 1945, Romania had its first government formed by members of the Romanian Communist Party led by Petre Grozea. The communist government or communist dictatorship, as the term is used in the documents of the Presidential Commission for the Analysis of the Communist Dictatorship in Romania, ruled Romania from 1947 to 1989, when it was removed from power following the People's Revolution of December 1989. The most prominent Communist leader in Romania was the dictator Nicolae Ceaușescu, who served as President of the Council of State (1967-1989) and President of Romania (1974-1989). Since 1974 the form of government in Romania has been a republic, the names used have been the Romanian People's Republic (1947-1965), the Socialist Republic of Romania (1965-1989) and Romania (1989-present).

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<sup>1</sup> Teodor Cârnaț, *Drept Constituțional* (Chișinău: Universitatea de Stat din Moldova, 2004), 56.

<sup>2</sup> Ileana Constantinescu, Adriana Motatu, *Dicționar juridic cu definiții minimale - român francez* (București: MILENA PRESS, 2011), 46.

<sup>3</sup> Teodor Cârnaț, *Drept Constituțional* (Chișinău: Universitatea de Stat din Moldova, 2004), 57

<sup>4</sup> idem

Since 1989 Romania has been on the road to democracy, a process of changing in society that has been going on for over 30 years. The present form of government is a semi-presidential republic, meaning that the prime minister and the president are actively involved in the administration of the state. The President is elected by popular vote, freely expressed, secret, and direct, and the Prime Minister is appointed by the President from the party that won the majority in Parliament. The Prime Minister receives a mandate from the President to form the government. Members of the government are nominated by the Prime Minister and appointed by the President of Romania following a vote of confidence by Parliament.

Internationally, Romania was accepted into NATO in 2004 and became a member of the European Union in 2007.

### **Governance and Constitutionalism**

Romania has been a constitutionally governed country since the official establishment of the Romanian state in 1859 until today. The Constitution has been the constant benchmark in government policies, regardless of the form of government, monarchy (1859-1947) or republic (1947-present). According to constitutional law professor Marieta Safta, "there are several significant stages in the process of Romania's constitutional development, respectively: (a) the pre-constitutional period (1740-1860), (b) the period of the formation of the modern Romanian state (1860-1940), (c) the period after the Second World War, (d) the period of socialist constitutions (1948-1989); e) the period of constitutional acts (1989-1991)"<sup>5</sup>. The history of constitutional development in Romania records that seven constitutions have been adopted, without taking into account the 'Statute of the Convention' of 7/19 August 1858, also known as Cuza's Statute or Cuza's Constitution, a constitutional act which The last amendment to the Constitution in 2003 was perceived as an update of the 1991 Constitution.

During the monarchy, there were three constitutions, namely:

1. Constitution of 1866: This was the first modern constitution of Romania and was adopted after the unification of the Romanian Principalities under Carol I. This document established a constitutional monarchical regime.
2. Constitution of 1923: This constitution was adopted after the formation of Greater Romania and preserved the monarchical character of the state, but with a number of changes and updates.
3. Constitution of 1938: Known as the "Constitution of Charles II", this document consolidated the power of the king and established an authoritarian regime.

Despite assumptions that during the communist period the fundamental document of the statute, the Constitution, was completely absent from Romania's legal system, this is not true. The communist period was just as intense in the drafting and adoption of constitutions as the monarchic period. Three of the seven constitutions were adopted during this period:

1. The 1948 Constitution: adopted after the establishment of the communist regime in Romania, it established the Romanian People's Republic and abolished the monarchy.
2. Constitution of 1952: This was an amendment to the 1948 Constitution to reflect the transformation of the Romanian People's Republic into the Socialist People's Republic of Romania under the control of the Communist Party.
3. 1965 Constitution: A new version of the socialist Constitution, adopted under Nicolae Ceausescu's regime.

After the 1989 Revolution, the 1991 Constitution established Romania as a semi-presidential republic, with a bicameral parliament and a president elected by popular vote. It has been noted that this Constitution "is based on the model of the

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<sup>5</sup> Marieta, Safta, *Drept constituțional și instituții politice*, Vol. I. *Teoria generală a dreptului constituțional. Drepturi și libertăți*, (București: Editura Hamangiu, 2018), 121.

Fifth Constitution of the French Republic". In the course of the democratization of public institutions and society, 79 amendments were made to the 1991 Constitution in 2003, following a referendum, which helped, among other things, to extend citizens' rights and freedoms and to create the legislative framework for institutional reforms. The 2003 Constitution is now in force.

The organization of the state, during the period of the constitutional monarchy and the semi-presidential republic, except during the communist period, was based on the separation and balance of three powers, namely: the legislative power, the executive power and the judicial power.

Under the constitutional monarchy, according to the 1923 Constitution, "legislative power is exercised collectively by the King and the National Representation" (Article 34), i.e. by the King and the Parliament consisting of the Senate and the Assembly of Deputies. The adoption of laws could only be made with the involvement of these institutions, the King and the two Houses of Parliament, as it is stated in Article 34 that "Any law requires the consent of three branches of the legislative power", as well as the fact that "the initiative of laws is given to each of the three branches of the legislative power" (Article 35). As for "the executive power is entrusted to the King, who exercises it regularly by the Constitution" (Article 39). The King appoints the Prime Minister, who forms the Government: "The Government exercises executive power in the name of the King, in the manner established by the Constitution" (Article 92). This principle has been synthetically expressed, over time, by the expression; "The King rules, not govern" (Article 35). As the holder of this power, the King may revoke the mandate of the Prime Minister at any time, if he finds that the Prime Minister's government no longer enjoys the confidence of the people and himself, according to Article 88 "The King appoints and revokes his ministers." (Article 88) As for judicial power, it "shall be exercised by its organs. Their decisions are pronounced by the law and executed in the name of the King" (Article 40).

In the form of government as a semi-presidential republic, according to the Romanian Constitution of 2003, legislative power is exercised by Parliament as "the supreme representative body of the Romanian people and the sole legislative authority of the country; Parliament is composed of the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate" (Art. 61), and the legislative initiative belongs to "the Government, deputies, senators or a number of at least 100,000 citizens with the right to vote" (Art. 74). The President promulgates laws (Art. 77). The executive power is represented by the President and the Government. The President "mediates between the powers of the State and between the State and society" (Art. 80), nominates candidates for Prime Minister (Art. 85), and "presides over meetings of the Government in which he participates" (Art. 87). The Government "ensures the implementation of the country's domestic and foreign policy and exercises the general management of public administration" (Art. 102). According to the 2003 Constitution, judicial power "is exercised through the High Court of Cassation and Justice and other courts established by law" (Art. 126).

One explanation for this form of government is that "Romania's semi-presidential framework makes sense in the post-communist context, which imposes this constitutional solution through the will of all political forces to have access to power"<sup>6</sup>. Semipresidentialism, in Frison-Roche's understanding and Raluca Mariana Negulescu's interpretation, represents "a form of compromise between the claims of the ex-communists to indirectly maintain their monopoly of power precisely by separating them and that of the new parties eager to access to power at a time when a parliamentary regime could have limited this possibility"<sup>7</sup>. Thus, "the institution of the presidency in post-communist Europe is primarily the result of negotiations and power-sharing between the political actors of the transition"<sup>8</sup>.

### **Citizenship during the period of constitutional monarchy**

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<sup>6</sup> Raluca Mariana Negulescu. "Reflecții – Semiprezidențialismul în România", *Sfera Politicii*, 139:29-36

<sup>7</sup> Idem

<sup>8</sup> Frison-Roche, „Semi-presidentialism”, *Elgie*, Moestrup: 63

During the monarchy, the Romanian state functioned based on three constitutions: the Constitution of 1866, the Constitution of 1923, and the Constitution of 1938.

**Romania's Constitution of 1866<sup>9</sup>** was one of the country's first modern fundamental laws, adopted during the reign of Charles I, and laid the foundations of the modern Romanian state. Regarding citizenship, the 1866 Constitution included the following aspects:

1. Citizenship by birth: According to this constitution, Romanian citizenship was granted by birth and children born on Romanian territory were considered Romanian citizens. The text of the Constitution, in Article 7, "The Romanian status shall be acquired, preserved and lost to the proper persons according to the rules established by civil laws".

2. Citizenship by naturalization: the Constitution established procedures for granting Romanian citizenship by naturalization to foreigners who met certain conditions, such as permanent residence in Romania and compliance with the laws and obligations of the state. Another condition is that "only the Christians can acquire citizenship" (art.7), which is of course discrimination on religious grounds. The text of the constitution states that this "The earthing is given by the legislative power. Only the earthing is similar to the Roman for exercising political rights" (art.8).

3. Rights and obligations: Romanian citizens had rights and obligations established by law, including civil and political rights, as well as the obligation to respect laws and constitutional authorities. Thus, "the present constitution and other laws relating to political rights, determine, as they are, particularly, of the quality of Roman, the conditions necessary for the exercise of these rights" (Art.6). "The Roman of any State, regardless of his place of birth, proving his exemption from state protection, may acquire at once the exercise of political rights by a vote of the Legislature" (Art. 9).

4. Equality before the law: the Constitution of 1866 promoted equality before the law for all citizens, regardless of their origin or religion, in the sense that "There is no class distinction in the State; all Romanians are equal before the law and must contribute without any obligation to public duties and tasks; they alone are admissible to public, civil and military offices" (Art. 10).

5. Protection of citizenship: Romanian citizenship could not be withdrawn arbitrarily and was protected by law against any abuse or unjustified restrictions. Even saints "on Romanian soil enjoyed the protection given by the laws to persons and property in general" (art.11).

The Constitution of 1866 was one of the first documents that enshrined the idea of modern citizenship in Romania, establishing fundamental principles regarding the status and rights of citizens within the Romanian state.

**The Romanian Constitution adopted in 1923<sup>10</sup>** established the legal and institutional framework of the Romanian state in the interwar period, after the Great Union of 1918. Regarding citizenship, the 1923 Constitution included the following aspects:

1. Granting of citizenship: Romanian citizenship was granted by birth, by descent or by naturalization, following the provisions of the law.

2. Citizenship by birth: Children born on Romanian territory or those born abroad to Romanian parents were considered Romanian citizens.

3. Citizenship by filiation: Romanian citizenship was also granted by filiation, which meant that the children of a Romanian citizen were, by right, Romanian citizens. "The wife and minor children benefit, under the conditions provided by law, from the naturalization of the husband or father" (art. 7)

4. Citizenship by naturalization: Foreigners who met certain conditions, such as stable residence in Romania and compliance with the laws, could obtain Romanian citizenship by naturalization, according to the law.

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<sup>9</sup> Constituția din 1866 published in „Monitorul -Jurnal Oficial Al Romaniei” No. 1421/13 June 1866

<sup>10</sup> Constituția din 1923 published in „Monitorul Oficial” No. 282/29 March 1923

So "Only naturalization resembles the foreigner with the Romanian for the exercise of political rights. Naturalization is granted individually by the Council of Ministers, following the finding of a commission, composed of the first president and the presidents of the Court of Appeal from the Capital of the Country, that the applicant fulfills the legal conditions. A special law will determine the conditions and the procedure by which foreigners obtain naturalization. Naturalization does not have retroactive effect" (art. 7).

5. Rights and obligations: Romanian citizens had rights and obligations established by law, including civil, political and social rights, as well as the obligation to respect the laws and institutions of the Romanian state.

The text of the Constitution states that "No distinction of birth or social class is allowed in the State. All Romanians, regardless of ethnic origin, language, or religion, are equal before the law and must contribute without distinction to public gifts and tasks. Only they are admissible in public, civil and military functions and dignities. Special laws will determine the status of civil servants. Foreigners can only be admitted to public positions in exceptional cases, namely established by law" (art. 8).

6. Protection of citizenship: Romanian citizenship could not be arbitrarily withdrawn and was protected by law against any abuses or unjustified restrictions. The text of the Constitution mentions that the "distinction between religious beliefs and confessions, ethnic origin, and language, does not constitute in Romania an obstacle to acquiring civil and political rights and exercising them" (Art. 7).

The 1923 constitution consolidated the idea of modern citizenship in Romania, continuing the tradition established by the previous constitution and reflecting the social and political developments of the interwar period.

*The 1938 Constitution of Romania*<sup>11</sup>, also known as the "Constitution of Carol II", was adopted during the reign of King Charles II and introduced an authoritarian regime in the country. Regarding citizenship, this constitution had some particularities:

1. Granting of citizenship: the 1938 Constitution provided that Romanian citizenship was granted by birth or by naturalisation, according to the law. The text of the Constitution states that: "Romanian nationality is acquired by marriage, by filiation, by recognition and by naturalisation. Naturalisation is granted by law on an individual basis; it has no retroactive effect. The wife benefits from the naturalization of the husband and the minor children from that of their parents" (art. 11).

2. Citizenship by birth: Children born on Romanian territory or those born abroad to Romanian parents were considered Romanian citizens.

3. Citizenship by naturalisation: Foreigners who met certain conditions, such as permanent residence in Romania and compliance with the law, could obtain Romanian citizenship by naturalisation, in accordance with the law.

4. Rights and obligations: Romanian citizens had rights and obligations established by law. However, under the authoritarian regime of Charles II, these rights were often restricted and citizens did not have access to a full range of civil and political rights. "Only Romanian citizens are admissible to public, civil and military offices and dignities, taking into account the majority and state-creating character of the Romanian Nation" (art.27).

5. Equal before the law: According to art. 5 "All Romanian citizens, regardless of ethnic origin and religious belief, are equal before the law, owing it respect and obedience. No one may consider himself relieved of his civil or military, public or private duties, on the basis of his religious or any other belief".

6. Political control: The regime established by the 1938 Constitution had a strong influence on citizenship and citizens' rights. Political control over citizenship was often used for political purposes to maintain power and control.

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<sup>11</sup> Constituția din 1938 published in "Monitorul Oficial", partea I, nr. 48/ 27 February 1938

The 1938 Constitution introduced an authoritarian regime in Romania and citizenship policies reflected this reality. Citizenship rights and freedoms were often limited in this context, and citizenship was sometimes used as a political tool to consolidate the power of the regime.

### **Citizenship in the Constitutions of the Communist Period**

During the communist dictatorship, the Romanian state operated under three constitutions, namely the 1948 Constitution, the 1952 Constitution and the 1965 Constitution.

*The 1948 Constitution of Romania*<sup>12</sup> was adopted during the period when the country was under the influence of the Romanian Communist Party and introduced a communist-type political and economic system. In terms of citizenship, this constitution had the following aspects:

1. Granting of citizenship: Romanian citizenship was granted by birth or by naturalization, according to the law. It was also granted automatically to children born in Romania to Romanian parents.
2. Citizenship by birth: the 1948 Constitution established that all children born on Romanian territory or born abroad to Romanian parents were considered Romanian citizens.
3. Citizenship by naturalisation: Foreigners who met certain conditions, such as permanent residence in Romania and acceptance of the principles of socialism, could obtain Romanian citizenship by naturalisation, in accordance with the laws adopted in this regard.
4. Rights and obligations: Romanian citizens had certain rights and freedoms established by the constitution, but these were limited and subordinated to communist ideology. At the same time, they also had obligations to the state and were expected to contribute to the building of a socialist society. According to Article 16 "all citizens of the Romanian People's Republic, regardless of sex, nationality, race, religion or degree of culture, are equal before the law". Also, according to Art. 18, "all citizens, regardless of sex, nationality, race, religion, degree of culture, profession, including the military, magistrates and civil servants, have the right to elect and to be elected to all state bodies. The right to elect is enjoyed by all citizens who have reached the age of 18, and the right to be elected by those who have reached the age of 23. The right to vote shall not be enjoyed by persons who are banned, deprived of civil and political rights and unworthy, declared as such by the lawful bodies, according to the law".
5. Political control: The communist regime exercised tight control over citizenship and citizens' rights. Issues such as freedom of expression and association were often restricted, and citizenship could be revoked or suspended for those considered enemies of the state.

Romania's 1948 Constitution consolidated the power of the Communist Party and established a legal framework that reflected the ideology and interests of the Communist regime. Romanian citizens were subordinated to Communist ideology and policies, and citizenship was tightly controlled to maintain power by the Communist regime.

*Romania's Constitution adopted in 1952*<sup>13</sup> was a consequence of the consolidation of communist power and the transformation of the country into a Soviet-style totalitarian state. In terms of citizenship, this constitution had the following aspects:

1. Granting of citizenship: Romanian citizenship was granted by birth or by naturalization according to the law. Like other communist states in Eastern Europe, the granting of citizenship was subject to rigorous ideology and loyalty to the communist regime.

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<sup>12</sup> Constituția din 1948 published in "Monitorul Oficial", partea I, nr. 87 bis/13 aprilie 1948

<sup>13</sup> Constituția din 1952 published in "Buletinul Oficial al Marii Adunari Nationale a Republicii Populare Romane" nr. 1/ 27 septembrie 1952.

2. Citizenship by birth: According to the 1952 Constitution, all children born in Romania or born abroad to Romanian parents were considered Romanian citizens.
3. Citizenship by naturalization: Naturalisation procedures were strictly controlled by the state and were conditioned by ideological and political criteria. Foreigners wishing to become Romanian citizens had to demonstrate full loyalty to the Communist Party and its ideology.
4. Rights and obligations: The 1952 Constitution provided a limited set of rights and freedoms for citizens, which were entirely subordinated to communist interests and ideology. At the same time, citizens had obligations to the state and were expected to participate actively in building socialism.
5. Political control: The communist regime exercised total control over citizenship and citizens' rights. Any expression of dissent or criticism of the regime could be punished by revocation of citizenship or other repressive measures.

The 1952 Constitution consolidated the communist dictatorship in Romania and subordinated citizenship and citizens' rights to the interests and ideology of the regime. Citizens were subject to strict state control and were obliged to submit entirely to the will of the Communist Party.

**The 1965 Constitution**<sup>14</sup> of the Socialist Republic of Romania (RSR) established citizenship according to the principles of the communist regime. Here are some relevant aspects of citizenship as laid down in that constitution:

1. Granting of citizenship: Citizenship in the FRG was granted mainly by birth or naturalisation. Persons born in the territory of the FRG or with one or both parents who were Romanian citizens were considered Romanian citizens. There was also the possibility of obtaining citizenship by naturalisation, which involved a formal application and approval process.
2. Loss of citizenship: Citizenship could be lost in certain circumstances, such as acquiring another citizenship or expressly renouncing Romanian citizenship.
3. Citizens' rights and duties: The 1965 Constitution recognised certain fundamental rights of citizens, such as the right to work, education and healthcare. Citizens were also obliged to respect the laws and to contribute to the development of socialism in the RSR.
4. Political participation: Citizens were encouraged to participate in the political life of the country through mass organisations, such as trade unions and youth organisations, which were under the control of the Communist Party.

It is important to point out that these aspects of citizenship in the 1965 Constitution reflected the ideological and political context of the communist regime at that time and differed significantly from the concepts of citizenship and citizenship rights present in a contemporary democratic state.

### **Citizenship in the Postcommunist Constitutions**

Romania's constitution adopted in 1991 brought a number of significant changes to the previous constitution, reflecting the country's transition from communist rule to a parliamentary democracy. This is how citizenship was regulated in the 1991 Constitution:

1. Granting citizenship: Romanian citizenship was granted by birth, adoption or naturalisation. People born in Romania or with a Romanian parent automatically received Romanian citizenship. Citizenship could also be obtained by adoption or naturalisation, according to the law.
2. Citizens' rights and duties: The Constitution granted Romanian citizens a wide range of fundamental rights and freedoms, such as freedom of expression, freedom of religion, the right to private property and the right to a fair trial. Citizens were also obliged to respect the constitution and laws of the country and to contribute to the defence of the homeland.

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<sup>14</sup> Constitutia din 1965 published in "Buletinul Oficial al R.S.R." nr. 1/21 August 1965



3. Protection of minority rights: The 1991 Constitution recognised and protected the rights of national minorities, guaranteeing their right to cultural, linguistic and religious identity.
4. Political participation: Romanian citizens had the right to participate in the political life of the country, including the right to vote and stand for election. They also had the right to join political parties and civic organisations.
5. Loss of citizenship: The Constitution stipulated that Romanian citizenship could only be lost in cases provided for by law, such as voluntary renunciation or loss of citizenship by court order in case of treason.

These provisions of the 1991 Constitution reflected the democratic values and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, characteristic of an open and pluralistic society.

*The Romanian Constitution adopted in 2003*, being an amendment and update of the 1991 Constitution, continued to regulate citizenship in a similar way to the 1991 Constitution, reflecting the democratic values and social developments of that period. These provisions of the 2003 Constitution continued to promote democratic values and ensure respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, strengthening the rule of law and democratic institutions in Romania.

### **Conclusions**

First, it can be observed, on the one hand, that there is a relationship between the form of government and, on the other hand, between the structure and content of the constitutional texts in Romania. The form of government existing in different periods of the evolution of the Romanian state influenced the content of the constitutions. Totalitarian governments have imposed political and social constraints even in the fundamental law, the Constitution. Instead democratic governments resulted in democratic Constitutions. Constitution and democracy are two fundamental concepts in the organization and functioning of a society. They are interconnected and play essential roles in establishing and maintaining a stable and fair political system. The constitution serves as the foundation of democracy, setting the rules of the game and protecting the individual and collective rights of citizens. In a functioning democracy, the Constitution is respected and enforced, and government decisions are consistent with constitutional provisions. At the same time, democracy ensures that the Constitution is a living and adaptable document, reflecting changes in society and the shared values of citizens.

Secondly, this foray into Romania's constitutional history makes us note that, in essence, the perspective on citizenship was largely the same, but had variations depending on the period and form of government. Citizenship in Romania refers to a person's legal and legal status as a citizen of Romania. Romanian citizenship can be obtained by birth, descent or naturalization. In the form of monarchical government, as well as under communist dictatorship, the monarch or the institutions seem to matter more than the citizen, even if the rights and duties of the citizen appear in the constitutional text. As Elena Balaban also remarked, "from a legal point of view, citizenship represents the link between the individual and the state, the individual showing solidarity and attachment to the state, having at the same time rights but also duties, from this it follows that citizenship represents the primary identity of individuals, having cohesive defining cultural elements of the state in question".

In Romania, the democratization of society was a concerted but long-lasting process that involved all public institutions, as well as citizens. After 40 years of communism, the road to democracy was very arduous, but with all that, Romania made some huge leaps in terms of socio-political development.

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