

Politics and its Impact on the Urban Physiognomy in Central and Eastern Europe: A Case Study of Bucharest

Radu Săgeată^{1,*}

¹Institute of Geography of the Romanian Academy, Bucharest, Romania; rsageata@gmail.com

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Abstract: This article intends to outline the correlation between territorial planning policies and the urban physiognomy against the historical and geopolitical background specific to Central and Eastern Europe, in general, and to Romania, in particular. A representative case-study is Bucharest-City. From a historical perspective, analysing this correlation allows individualising Romania's Capital-city by six "architectural layers" with a homogeneous physiognomy and historically attested, which emerged and evolved in the geopolitical circumstances specific to certain mediaeval periods and influences. When the Romanian traditional architecture suffered by Turkish and Greek influences, as well as French ones (end of the 19th cent.-early 20th cent.). In the interwar period it was the American, the Soviet (1950-1960), the North-Korean (1980s) and contemporary (as of 1990) influences, globalising fluxes and the generalisation of Western architectural models being quite obvious.

Key words: urban physiognomy, architectural layers, political-ideological decisions, Central and Eastern Europe, Romania, Bucharest.