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BOOK REVIEW: «GLOBALIZATION'S EFFECTS ON MINING COMMUNITIES UNDER ECONOMIC RESHUFFLE. CASE STUDY IN ROȘIA MONTANĂ» BY BOGDAN NICOLAE MUCEA

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Abstract: *This review evaluates Bogdan Nicolae Mușea's book, which examines the economic, social, and environmental effects of globalization on Roșia Montană, a historic mining community in Romania. The author combines historical analysis, interviews, and sociological research to analyze the impact of the Roșia Montană Gold Corporation project on the region. The book provides valuable insights into the tensions between economic development and heritage preservation, and it raises important ethical questions regarding industrial intervention in local communities. This review highlights the strengths of Mușea's arguments and methodology, while also suggesting areas where comparative perspectives could further enrich the study.*

Keywords: *globalization, mining, Roșia Montană, socio-economic transformation, environmental impact*

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INTRODUCTION

Bogdan Nicolae Mucea's 2022 book offers a rich and layered sociological analysis of how globalization has reshaped the life of one of Romania's oldest mining settlements — Roșia Montană. Situated in the Apuseni Mountains, this village has long been associated with extraction and industry. In this work, Mucea addresses the socio-economic and cultural challenges posed by foreign investment, particularly through the lens of the controversial Roșia Montană Gold Corporation (RMGC) project.

As Mucea writes, "Examining the Roșia Montană community is a much more challenging and interesting strive because of its unique traits, unparalleled to other mining settlements in Romania in many respects." (Mucea, 2022, p. 6) This statement sets the tone for a nuanced investigation. His research methodology combines interviews, surveys, and participant observations to reveal how external economic restructuring affects both individual lives and the collective memory of place.



MAIN TEXT

One of the most impactful sections of Mucea's book focuses on the transformation of Roșia Montană following the proposed RMGC project. While the promise of foreign investment might appear beneficial on the surface, Mucea shows how the social fabric of the community was fractured in the process. The book is not simply about economics; it is about how change seeps into the daily routines, relationships, and memories of people who are deeply connected to a place.

The chapter on Recea—the residential district created for relocated families—is particularly strong. Mucea explains that RMGC tried to present this district as a model of continuity and care. As he writes: *“The Recea district is the result of a common vision of RMGC and the community,”* based on two ideas: *“The community must stay together!”* and *“We want to move, but for the better”* (Mucea, 2022, p. 46). The intention was to preserve community ties even in a new space. Residents could choose their house type and even their neighbors.

But reality proved more complex. Despite the material benefits of relocation, emotional and cultural attachments could not simply be rebuilt in new neighborhoods. *“The greatest dissonance was caused by the change of residence, with people moving from a rural area to an urban area,”* Mușea notes, *“coupled with the loss of human capital prior to the relocation”* (Mucea, 2022, p. 49). The rupture was not only spatial—it was social and symbolic.

People tried to bring pieces of their old life with them: furniture, religious icons, wood stoves. These objects were more than material items; they were anchors of memory. *“These objects helped people feel that there was a continuity in life, that the displacement was just a stage in a continuous process”* (Mucea, 2022, pp. 49). Some even relocated their deceased relatives' graves, emphasizing just how deep the connection to place was: *“They took him to the central cemetery in Cluj, Gold bought the place... we performed the service for him, of course”* (Mucea, 2022, p. 49).

But while some tried to recreate familiarity, others struggled with public perception and social conflict. The relocated residents of Recea were sometimes seen as “privileged” by those who didn't receive RMGC compensation. *“The company's presence on the edge of the neighbourhood was awkward... seen as controlling”* (Mucea, 2022, p. 47). Tensions emerged—between those who moved and those who stayed, between old habits and new routines, between memory and modernity.

This fracture is also evident in Mucea's discussion of depopulation and migration. The village is aging. Young people, seeing little future in the area, are leaving for cities or abroad. *“The young people went to work abroad,”* notes one respondent. *“Now the wind blows in the desert... there were my friends, now it's agony”* (Mucea, 2022, p. 201). This sense of loss—of people, of continuity, of purpose—saturates the book.

What makes the study valuable is that it doesn't romanticize the past nor condemn the present. Instead, it shows how economic restructuring affects people unevenly, how globalization is not a distant force but something that appears in your neighborhood, your family, your everyday life.



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CONCLUSION

Mucea's work is a valuable case study for scholars and students interested in globalization, environmental sociology, and post-socialist transition. Its interdisciplinary approach makes it suitable for readers in sociology, anthropology, and political science. While the book's strength lies in its thorough local analysis, future research could benefit from comparisons with other mining communities facing similar pressures worldwide.

For scholars of globalization, sociology, and post-socialist transition, Mucea's book offers a rich, case-based analysis rooted in lived experience. For policymakers, it serves as a warning that community engagement is not a checkbox but an ethical obligation. And for general readers, it is a deeply human story that reminds us progress always comes at a cost—and the critical question is who bears that cost. Overall, the book functions both as a historical record and a powerful commentary on the unintended consequences of economic development in marginalized regions. It is a timely and meaningful contribution to the literature on globalization and local resistance.

REFERENCES

Mucea, B. N. (2022). *Globalization's Effects on Mining Communities under Economic Reshuffle. Case Study in Roșia Montană*. Lambert Academic Publishing.