

**The Activity of the Romanian Orthodox Clergy as Deputies in
the Ad-Hoc Divans and in the Elective Assemblies
(Years 1857-1859)**

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Abstract

This study presents the contributions of the clergy from Danubian Principalities, at the debates of the ad-hoc Divans and of the Elective Assemblies, in the European context of the years 1857-1859. At the front of the pro-unionist activity were also the Orthodox clergy, with few exceptions. In 1858, during the discussion from the Paris Conference, the guarantor powers have emitted the Convention from Paris where it was decided to formally unify the Principalities and to organize separated elections. On the 5th and 25th of January, 1859, the Romanians from the two countries have decided to elect Alexandru Ioan Cuza as the unique ruler. The correspondence of the clergy deputies, that of the European diplomats, especially the reports recorded by Dimitrie A. Sturdza, clearly testifies to the contribution of the Romanian Orthodox Church at the establishing project of the the Romanian modern state.