

Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca
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Summary of the Doctoral Thesis

**THE DEMOGRAPHIC EVOLUTION OF THE ARAD COUNTY
DURING THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY AND IN THE EARLY
NINETEENTH CENTURY**

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Thesis Summary

I. Introduction

II. Demography and history

1. Developments in universal historiography
2. Developments in Romanian historiography
3. The demography of Arad area in the eighteenth century and in the early nineteenth century. Historiographic contributions
 3. 1. Nineteenth-century historiography
 3. 2. Inter-war historiography
 3. 3. Post-war historiography

III. Sources and Methodology

1. Sources
2. Methodology

IV. Population structure in Arad County in the eighteenth century and early nineteenth century

1. County and city of Arad in XII-XVIII centuries
 1. 1. Territorial administrative organization
 1. 2. Institutions of Arad County
 1. 3. Arad - Civil City
2. Arad County and city population between the XII-XVII centuries
3. Arad County population developments in the eighteenth century and in the early nineteenth century
 3. 1. Preliminary considerations
 3. 2. Arad County population between 1701 - 1828
 3. 3. Arad city population between 1701-1828
4. Ethnic and religious structure in Arad County in the eighteenth century and early nineteenth century
 4. 1. Ethnic and confessional structure of Arad County
 4. 2. Ethnic and confessional structure in Arad City

V. Demographic behaviours in Arad County in the eighteenth century and early nineteenth century

1. Investigation and research strategy
2. Natural movement of population in Arad county in eighteenth century and early nineteenth century
 2. 1. Birth rate
 2. 1. 1. Birth rate in the OPRC Arad
 2. 1. 2. Birth rate in the OPOR - OPOS Arad
 2. 1. 3. Birth in the OPRC Horia
 2. 1. 4. Birth rate in the OPRC Ineu
 2. 1. 5. Birth rate in the OPOR Ineu
 2. 1. 6. Birth rate in the OPEV - OPOR Olari
 2. 1. 7. Birth rate in the OPREF Zerind
 2. 1. 8. Conclusion on the birth rate in Arad County
 2. 2. Mortality
 2. 2. 1. Mortality in the OPRC Arad
 2. 2. 2. Mortality in the OPOR Arad
 2. 2. 3. Mortality in the OPRC Horia
 2. 2. 4. Mortality in the OPRC Ineu
 2. 2. 5. Mortality in the OPOR Ineu
 2. 2. 6. Mortality in the OPEV Olari
 2. 2. 7. Mortality in the OPREF Zerind
 2. 2. 8. Conclusions on mortality in Arad County
 2. 3. Causes of death in the county of Arad in eighteenth century and early nineteenth century
3. Aspects of marriage rate in the county of Arad in eighteenth century and early nineteenth century
 3. 1. Marriage rate in the OPRC Arad
 3. 2. Marriage rate in the OPOR Arad
 3. 3. Marriage rate in the OPRC Horia
 3. 4. Marriage rate in the OPRC Ineu
 3. 5. Marriage rate in the OPOR Ineu
 3. 6. Marriage rate in the OPEV Olari
 3. 7. Marriage rate in the OPOR Olari
 3. 8. Marriage rate in the OPREF Zerind

3. 9. Conclusion on marriage rate in the Arad County

3. 10. Marriages and marriages – marriage rate at its best

VI. Rural habitat – Urban habitat in Arad County in the eighteenth century and early nineteenth century

1. Historiography problem

2. Geographical environment in Arad County

3. The emergence and development of settlements in the county of Arad

4. Origin and the age of settlements

5. Politics and habitat in the eighteenth century and early nineteenth century

5. 1. Immigrants and settlers in the county of Arad in the eighteenth century and early nineteenth century

5. 1. 1. Serbs: immigrants and emigrants

5. 1. 2. Germans

5. 1. 3. Hungarians

5. 1. 4. Jews

5. 1. 5. Slovaks

5. 2. The systematization policy

6. The habitat in the former Arad County

6. 1. Urban and Semi-Urban habitat – market towns and towns

6. 2. Rural habitat in the county of Arad

7. Habitat according to major relief units

7. 1. Generalities

7. 2. The plain habitat

7. 3. The hills and depression habitat

7. 4. The mountain habitat

8. Habitat depending on the position or geographical location

8. 1. Valleys

8. 2. Contact areas

8. 3. Interfluves

9. Habitat depending on the structure of settlements

10. Territorial dispersion of settlements

11. The peasant house in the former county of Arad

VII. Aspects of daily life in Arad city in the eighteenth century

1. Generalities
2. Methodology and Sources
 2. 1. Methodology
 2. 2. Sources
3. Matrimonial relations in Arad in the eighteenth century
4. Children and the education in the eighteenth century
 4. 1. Children
 4. 2. Education
 4. 3. School fees in Arad in the eighteenth century
5. The effects of floods in 1771 in Arad
6. Demographic realities in Arad in the eighteenth century
7. Aspects of Arad and Napoleonic Wars at the end of the XVIIIth century

VIII. Final considerations

Annexes

Bibliography

Keywords: Arad County, historical demography, the eighteenth century, the nineteenth century, Transylvania, the Habsburg Empire, settlers, immigrants, birth rate, death rate, marriage rate, natural increase, parish registers, demographic change, urban habitat, rural habitat, daily life, matrimonial relations, the Enlightenment.

I. Introduction

The research theme „The demographic evolution of the Arad County during the eighteenth century and in the early nineteenth century” started from a desire to expose the social, historical, administrative, and demographic changes and their mainsprings in a place and in a time for which historical sources that fall within the research theme offer the most diverse information.

Arad County in the eighteenth century had long had a special status - erarial estate - but also a unique and strategic geographical position in the empire, at least until 1716 when a new Austrian-Turkish war began, concluding with the peace of Passarovitz. A border area until the incorporation of Banat and Oltenia in the Habsburg Empire in 1718, Arad County enjoyed attention from the Court of Vienna. The military border Tisa-Mureş would provide security at the periphery of the Habsburg territories in a plain area difficult to defend. Mureş River was the natural boundary of the empire in this region for more than two decades, and the Arad fortress became the center of this militarized region that included 12 villages on the right bank of the Mureş River, from Semlac to Ohaba-Săvârşin. The „Illyrian privileges” had resulted in mass migration of the Serbs to cities and borderline villages. Their settlement on the right bank of the river arose new terms into the population equation. However, at the same time, many of them left after the abolition of the militarized zone, which changed the demographic picture of Arad County both ethnically and religiously.

The eighteenth century represented a turning point for Arad region, in terms of not only historical and administrative changes, but also especially those in the social field. Imperial authorities have struggled under populationism policies to make Arad County a region from which the Court of Vienna could benefit. In this direction, the Habsburgs took over the eighteenth century two categories of measures aiming the integration of the County in the Imperial structures.

Firstly, they held a strict record of population and its material resources, in order to determine the level of taxation and to predict future revenues. Exact knowledge of the population - especially the men - was necessary for the military needs of the empire, knowing that the eighteenth century was for the Habsburg Empire a century of wars. In this respect, there have been dozens of tax and military conscriptions, which today are important sources for any researcher interested in population trends of the county of Arad. Secondly, the policy of systematization and colonization has brought up important shifts in the ethnic composition of settlements and new settings.

II. Demography and history

All these changes were for the attention of researchers, historians, geographers, ethnographers since the century in which they occurred, but especially those that followed. Researchers are mainly from the area of Arad, who, in different times and for various reasons, engaged in activities of historiographical nature regarding Arad County. The historiographical overview in the first part highlights the role and importance of various scholars investigating demographic phenomena in Arad County. Historical demography studies have completed the historiographical picture often offering solutions to problems and always-useful additions to traditional history.

III. Sources and Methodology

The main categories of sources used in an attempt to reconstruct the demographic development of Arad County in the eighteenth century and early nineteenth century are clearly of statistical nature. The eighteenth century is in this regard a period of considerable widening of tax assessments of all kinds, along with the various parish registers and notaries documents that provide valuable sources of investigation. The working method included a set of techniques for investigating, demographic statistic analysis, sampling and case studies, critical analysis of documents and references, microanalysis and the composition of databases that we then used on qualitative analysis and formulation of conclusions.

IV. Population structure of Arad in the eighteenth century and early nineteenth century

Before quantifying the population for the eighteenth century and early nineteenth century we have concluded that in the two medieval counties - Arad and Zarand - existed in the fifteenth century 61350 inhabitants and in the first half of the sixteenth century - 64960 inhabitants. At the beginning of the eighteenth century, Arad County contained only 25 localities in the north of Mureş River and in the middle of the century, the administrative unit was extended by incorporating two districts of Zarand County, which would then be abolished. We made calculations on population from Arad County in its extended administrative form, but also including in these calculations the Serbian militaries' families, who, at least until the abolition of the Tisa-Mureş military border, had an important share in these areas.

The population of Arad county in the eighteenth century and early nineteenth century

Period	Source	Pop. of Arad county extended		Total	No. enrolled	No. houses
		Arad county itself	Circles of Zarand			
1700	Márki/estimate	10000	5-6000	15-16000		
1715	Conscription	11435	6710	18145	3629	
1720	References	9475	8400	17875	3575	
1743-1752	Conscription	12736	34418	47154	9287	
1771-72	Urbarium			86350	17270	
1776	Conscription			100039		
1787	Census			152930		25957
1794	Bibliography			149617		26165
1805	Bibliography/ Source			182560		30922
1828	Conscription			207039	35536	33804

The growth of Arad County population throughout the period was 13.8 times, from about 15000 inhabitants around the year 1700 to 207039 inhabitants in 1828. From this point of view, Arad is different from all the counties from Transylvania and Partium. Only Sătmar County has grown quite large, 7.6 times during 1720-1828, while Bihor County increased 5.4 times and Cluj County 3.3 times in the same range. Arad city in its turn saw a major increase from 2425 inhabitants in 1715 to 13824 inhabitants in 1828.

For the last decades of the eighteenth century and first decades of the nineteenth century demographic comparisons of Arad with other cities from Transylvania, Banat or Partium reveal a similar dynamic. Arad population between 1777-1828 increased by 70% while the population of Cluj has increased by almost 80% between 1780-1830, the population of Baia Mare has doubled between 1777 and 1828 and Timișoara residents increased by 62% between 1784 - 1830.

The population of Arad city between 1715-1828

Period	Source	Total inhabitants	No. enrolled	Growth %
1715	Conscription	2425	485	
1720	References	2895	579	19,38
1743-1752	Conscription	3648	726	26,01
1768	Conscription	5354		46,77
1774	References	6245	1249	16,64
1777	References	8153		30,55
1782	Estimate	8800		7,94
1787	Census/ estimate	9410	1597 houses	6,93
1828	References / Conscription	13824		46,91

From the religious point of view, we have obtained the percentages for the period 1715-1747 beginning from ethnic percentages, considering that Romanians and Serbs were Orthodox, while Germans and Hungarians were Catholic. The Orthodox legally constituted

the majority of the population of the county throughout the studied period. From 87-93% in the first half of the eighteenth century, it decreased to 84% until the end of the century and in 1828, their number was as low as 76%. The lowering during the second half of the century is directly linked to the abolition of military border and departures of many families of Serbs and even Romanian. In addition, the colonization that took place also contributed to ethnic and religious percentage changes of the county. Colonizations continued in the first decades of the nineteenth century, particularly with Hungarian elements. All these, but also the Romanians passing to the Greek Catholic religion, are factors that made the percentage of Orthodoxies to be 76.13% in 1828. Ethnically, the county population was mostly Romanian, because Serbs were located especially in Arad city.

Ethnic and confessional structure of the city and county of Arad in the eighteenth century and early nineteenth century

Year	1715	1720	1747	1768	1777	1828	1720	1747	1776	1787	1804	1828
Ethnicity/ Confession	town	town	town	town	town	town	county	county	county	county	county	county
Romanians	2,89	7,77	13,84				63,59	87,61				
Germans	13,4	16,24	19,56				2,7	2,03				
Serbian	76,91	70,81	59,22				24,09	5,58				
Hungarians	6,8	5,18	7,01				9,58	4,75				
Jews												
Others			0,37				0,04	0,03				
Total %	100	100	100				100	100				
Orthodox	79,8	78,58	73,06	67,18	68,63	50,53	87,68	93	83,78	84,02	84,05	76,13
Catholic	20,2	21,42	26,57	30,95	29,85	42,85	12,28	4	8,53	11,17	11,18	16,82
Reformed						1,38		3	3,84	4,58	4,32	6,36
Jewess				1,87	1,52	5,24			0,3	0,23	0,45	0,69
Others			0,37				0,04		3,55			
Total %	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

The situation in the city was completely different. Here the Orthodox element was also majoritary, but from the ethnic point of view, Serbs had the highest weight. From 78-79%, the Orthodox came to represent 67-68% until the end, while in 1828 the percentage was 50%. At the same time, the number of Germans and Hungarians increased and the percentage of Catholics in the city rose from 20% in 1715 to 30% in 1777 and reaching 42.85% in 1828. The statistics from 1828 comprise among Catholics the Greek Catholics, but we cannot know their exact number. Those of Hebrew origin complement the city's ethnic mosaic; their percentage grew from about 1% as represented by the six families in 1747 to 1.87% in 1768, reaching 5.24% in 1828.

Regarding ethnic and confessional structure of settlements in the county, most of these were mainly Romanian. Among them have been or have been created along the eighteenth-

century settlements with German ethnics - like Sântana, Aletea, Horia, Glogovăț, Sânmartin, with Hungarians – like Zerind, Iermata, Adea, Vânători, or Slovaks – like Mocrea. At the same time, there were numerous settlements with mixed character, representing different ethnicities and confessions. Apart from Arad, which is the most convincing example, such settlements were Pecica, Sebiș, Ghioroc, Șiria, Pădureni etc.

V. Demographic behaviours in Arad County in the eighteenth century and early nineteenth century

Demographic analysis regarded data from several parishes in the county: Orthodox parishes from Arad, Ineu and Olari, the Catholic ones from Arad, Ineu, Horia and Glogovăț (Vladimirescu), the Reformed from Zerind, Olari and Mocrea. Birth rate, mortality rate, natural increase, marriage rate are some of the fundamental notions of demography, to which I tried to provide conclusive answers as population-related phenomena. Transversal or longitudinal analysis, comparative analysis method, using the demographic "cohorts", the sampling, and the case studies completed with critical analysis of the data have been the methodological resources approach to this issue.

The years 1800-1801 was only a temporal boundary, a step in the dynamics of population growth; we cannot talk about substantial changes in the early nineteenth century. The amplification of demographic phenomena relates more to a general status found on larger areas of Central Europe. These may be the direct consequences of political stability, economic development, the progress in medicine, the rise in living standards, etc. A summary of the birth phenomenon in Arad County supports the above statement.

The sex structure of the infants in the studied parishes is balanced without being able to establish a precise model for one confession or another. When the balance was disrupted, however, there were just exceptions, and explanations cannot go beyond recognizing the supremacy of the nature, with its regulatory role. The average number of births per year has no particular relevance as long as we cannot determine even approximately the population of that confession. When we had the possibility, we calculated RBN for three locations - Ineu, Olari, Zerind - and the figures obtained were scattered. A rate of 84.3 % for Olari shows a significant reserve for increased population growth, while the percentages of Zerind and Ineu fall in a normal in this regard.

Aspects of birth rate in Arad County

Years	Parish	Distribution by sex		Average births per year	Fewest births	Months of reduced conception	% illegitimate	% twins	RBN ‰	Most births	Months of increased conception
		M	W								
1741-1750	OPRC Arad	54,3	45,7	57,8	aprilie-iulie	iulie-octombrie	1,37	0,7		martie, octombrie	iunie, ianuarie
1794-1805		51,87	48,13	180,75	mai-iulie, septembrie	august-octombrie, decembrie	10,32	1,49		ianuarie, octombrie	aprilie, ianuarie
1741-1750	OPOR Arad			30,6							
1794-1805				181,5							
1787-1810	OPRC Horia	50,5	49,5	54,3	mai-iulie	august-octombrie	0,37	1,8		februarie-martie	mai-iunie
1735-1810	OPRC Ineu	49,7	50,3	11,17	mai-iulie	august-octombrie	2,8	1,9		ianuarie-martie	aprilie-iunie
1753-1768	Mocrea-Luth.	40,9	59,1	7,1	date insuf.	date insuf.		0,86		date insuf.	date insuf.
1786-1798	OPOR Ineu	49,5	50,5	70,7	mai-iulie, decembrie	august-octombrie, martie		0,7	37,8	ianuarie-februarie	aprilie-mai
1785-1810	OPEV Olari	50,3	49,7	40	aprilie-iulie	iulie-octombrie	0,5	1,66	84,3	august-septembrie, decembrie	noiembrie-decembrie, martie
1785-1794	OPOR Olari	55,1	44,9	32	mai-iulie, decembrie	august-octombrie, martie				ianuarie-februarie	aprilie-mai
1777-1810	OPREF Zerind	49,6	50,4	53,1	aprilie-iulie	iulie-octombrie	0,05	1,09	46	ianuarie-februarie, decembrie	aprilie-mai, martie

The relationship between birth - agricultural work - religious holidays is partly obvious to all studied communities. May, June, and July were the least productive in this respect. If we go nine months ago, the answer lies in the months from August to September-October, the most important in the agricultural calendar. Major religious holidays have no significant influence on fertility in Protestant communities, but Catholics and Orthodox have behaved differently to the restrictions imposed by the Church. More prolificacy of the Catholics in January and of the Orthodox in April links to the two major holidays and days of fasting preceding it. The weeks of abstinence are followed by a fertile period that we find statistically by the greater number of children born in October and January-February, respectively.

Illegitimacy index shows a clear difference between urban and rural communities, between large and small communities, between Catholics and Protestants. In this triple dichotomy, the numerical supremacy was always in favour of the first. The 10.22% of Catholic illegitimate children in Arad in the early nineteenth century is much higher than that in Horia, while very low levels of illegitimacy among Protestants contrast obviously with those of the Catholics. Freer spirit of the city, with direct consequences upon morals, is in evident opposition with the mentality and bigotry of rural inhabitants, maintained by priests or pastors. We can think that the cohabiting situations were occurring more frequently in urban

environments, for various reasons, and, therefore, babies born to such relationships, although having natural parents, were illegitimate in terms of religion.

Birth rate itself, both numerically and proportionally, could have provided an even greater population growth in the county of Arad in the eighteenth century and early nineteenth century, but reduced life expectancy, living standards, repeated epidemics, high mortality have made this growth to have values that we determined based on parish records and assessments.

The phenomenon of death rate evolved and oscillated over time in the communities studied. Discrepancies and the elements of continuity are observed in terms of certain indices at both the interethnic and interconfessional level and the intraethnic and intraconfessional level. Catholic Community of Arad and Ineu had similar demographic behaviours. Even if the indicators are higher, at least compared to the Orthodox population, time has shown a negative natural increase in both cases. However, the consequences were different. The Catholic population in Ineu "diluted" over time, its weight decreasing continuously, while the Catholic population in Arad underwent a percentile augmentation over time. The permanent supply with Germans - especially during the eighteenth century, and Hungarians - especially in the nineteenth century, made in the first part of the nineteenth century the Orthodox and Catholics almost equal, but the trend was favourable to the Catholic confession. In this development, the Romanian Orthodox had a demographic behaviour with positive conclusion in terms of natural growth supported mainly by a high birth rate.

Aspects of mortality in Arad County

Parish	Period	Life expectancy			Mort. inf. %	mortalit. 0-10 years	No. born	Av. born per year	No. death	Av. death per year	Nat. increase	Nat. increase per year	RBN	RBM	REN	% +70 years
		at birth (0 year)	at 1 year	at 11 years												
OPRC Arad	1746-1750	21,7	28,25	40,38	27,7	48,26	296	59,2	344	68,8	-48	-9,6				2,9
	1761-1765	23,62	31,87	42,86	18,04	46,69	510	102	347	69,4	163	32,6				2,88
	1798-1802	19,14	28,77	43,42	30,14	56,17	919	183,8	794	158,8	125	25				2,64
	1715-1818						11628	111,81	12063	115,99	-435	-4,18				
OPOR Arad	1746-1750						178	35,6	88	17,6	90	18				
	1761-1765						485	97,00	271	54,20	214	42,80				
	1798-1802						986	197,20	703	140,60	283	56,60				
	1730-1805						8177	107,59	6339	83,41	1838	24,18				
OPRC Horia	1787-1810	13,53	21,03	40	24,65	68,78	1071	76,50	740	52,86	331	23,64				1,48

OPRC Ineu	1746-1755	27,17	31,58	39,85	31,58	32,52	76	7,60	176	17,60	-100	-10	37,8	28,6			1,7
	1761-1770	16,72	24,05	35,78	27,47	54,12	91	9,10	85	8,50	6	0,60					
	1787-1800	21,73	29,21	41,31	21,53	49,18	144	10,29	122	8,71	22	1,58					0,8
	1801-1810	19,9	25,24	38,63	33,94	50,9	274	27,40	442	44,20	-168	-16,80					0,9
	1735-1810	21,59	27,58	39,64	27,68	46,22	849	11,32	1125	15,00	-276	-3,68					0,88
OPOR Ineu	1787-1799	10,85	13,88	32,96		73,74	828	63,69	654	50,31	174	13,38					0,55
	1800-1810						776	77,60	693	69,30	83	8,30					
	1787-1810						1604	66,83	1347	56,13	257	10,70					
OPEV Olari	1787-1810	16,75	24,2	45,56	18,4	65,25	1114	79,57	659	47,07	455	32,50					4,4
OPOR Olari	1784-1794						328	29,82	233	21,18	95	8,64					
OPREF Zerind	1778-1787	18,61	26,45	47,23			341	34,10	217	21,70	124	12,40	46	33			
	1798-1803	37,27	37,72	51,44			354	59,00	85	14,17	269	44,83					
	1778-1787 1798-1803	24,14	30,64	49,11	8,63	50	695	43,44	302	18,88	393	24,56					

The biggest natural increase existed mostly in the Hungarian Reformed communities of Zerind and Olari. They had annual growth rates that allowed them to double their population in the interval between the last decades of the eighteenth century and the early ones of the nineteenth century.

Life expectancy at birth has experienced a wide range of events. Romanian ethnicity in this case seems the most disadvantaged considering the indexes, however, calculated on a small number of records for the Orthodox parish of Ineu. The gain in life years according to age is obvious in all studied parishes, and average figures show once again the "supremacy" of the Reformed confession. The mortality of the children less than 10 years is for most of the communities and most of the period studied close to 50%. However, the negative extremes were practically among all of the three confessions; the figures for the various stages of the late eighteenth century and early nineteenth century are over 73% for Orthodox from Ineu, 68.78% for Horia Catholics and 65.25% for Reformed of Olari.

Gathering all data and indicators, I tried to form some types or patterns of demographic evolution reported in the eight parishes of the former Arad County.

1. The surplus model has a considerable population increase over time. It has at its base low infant mortality, increased life expectancy especially after the age of one year and a birth rate that provides a steady natural increase over time. Reformed parishes of Olari and Zerind fall in this type.

2. The balanced model has a long-term positive natural increase based on an improvement of former "bad" demographic indicators (life expectancy, infant mortality, and

child mortality under 10 years) and a birth rate to ensure a lower average natural growth, but positive over time. Horia Catholic community fall in this type, but also the Orthodox from Arad, Olari, and Ineu, the latter examples having sustained growth on a high birth rate, which overcame negative influences of other indicators.

3. The regressive model is the model for the gradually decreasing population. Indicators of mortality rate and life expectancy do not feature any special long-term negative characteristics, but low birth rates cannot support a positive natural growth. Some parishes investigated fall in this typology: the Catholics from Ineu and Arad.

The types of marriage show primarily the predominance of the protogam category. Since the second half of the eighteenth century, we have never met in the investigated parishes a percentage below 50% for this type of marriage. Conversely, the trend was increasing, this percentage reaching values even above 60% in the early nineteenth century in Ineu and Arad. The relationships between other types of marriages varied over time, depending on the type of settlement, marriage offer, local customs, or different mentalities among different ethnicities and confessions.

Aspects of marriage rate in Arad County

Parish	Period	Marriage per year	Types of marriage				Mean age		Median age		% Marriage rate	% Exogamous marriage
			cc	cw	wc	ww	B	W	B	W		
OPRC Arad	1741-1750	19,7	43,65	23,35	12,69	10,66					15,30	21,23
	1781-1785	39,2	51,02	21,94	15,82	11,22	26,98	19,71	26	18		
	1794-1810	59,3	60,22	15,51	14,27	10,00	26,37	20,56	25	19		
OPOR Arad	1783-1790	31,6										
	1800-1804	36,8										
OPRC Horia	1787-1810	9,0	59,70	8,96	16,42	14,93	22,33	19,55	22	20		43,01
OPRC Ineu	1735-1810	4,5	65,79	10,96	7,89	15,35	24,88	19,72	24	19	7	8,03
OPOR Ineu	1787-1810	14,0										23,00
OPEV Olari	1786-1810	9,7									23	
OPOR Olari	1785-1810	8,7										54,00
OPREF Zerind	1791-1810	13,4					22	18,70	22	17	13,2	22,38

The situation is obvious in marriages between two partners, both widows. In an urban area, like Arad city, this type of marriage was the least practiced of all palingam marriages, around 10-11%. The Catholic widowers of Horia and Ineu rather geared towards a partner with the same marital status, as the 14-15% is eloquent for this type of marriage in these settlements. This behavioural dichotomy between urban and rural areas is observed also in the case of marriages between an unmarried man and a widow. In Arad, such marriages have

exceeded even 20% of the total in some periods, while the other two Catholic parishes have opted for such marriages in the rate of 8.96% in Horia and 10.96% in Ineu.

Mean age at first marriage for both sexes has characteristics that don't go beyond the local factors or the communities' customs. Therefore I do not think we can speak of a model but rather some trends. In Arad the minor trend of lowering the age of men in parallel with a small increase of the average age of women at first marriage is obvious. These observations are confirmed by the values of Arad Catholics; the median age for both sexes decrease from 26 to 25 years for men and increase from 18 to 19 years for women.

Among the other two Catholic communities, at least in terms of average age of women, the situation on the border of the century is similar to that of Arad in sense that the first marriage of girls takes place around the anniversary of 20 years. In contrast, the average age of men is almost 25 years in Ineu and 22 years in Horia.

Marital behaviour and age at first marriage has other meanings in Zerind. Religious influences and ethno-religious and geographical inbreeding type show matrimonial options at relatively small ages, especially for girls. Data from the eighth decade of the eighteenth century led me to an average age of girls at first marriage of only 17 years, which subsequently rose in the early nineteenth century to 18.7 years. The average age of men was constant - 22 years - both in the late eighteenth century and the early nineteenth century.

Marriage rates know some important distinctions. Even if they don't have absolute value, they can fill some explanations regarding demographic evolution in the researched settlements. Moreover, a rate of only 7 % for Ineu contrasts obviously with the rate of 23 % recorded in Olari. The consequences of these rates in conjunction with other demographic indicators were different in time: the population of Ineu increased slightly during 1787-1828, while the number of people in Olari increased from 854 to 1915 people during the same interval.

Exogamous marriages also show a different behaviour. The percentage of 54% among the Orthodox from Olari is highly surprising. The explanation is that the majority of grooms came from settlements close to Olari, where such marital behaviours were rather rule than exception. The percentage of 43% of such marriages in Horia was due to the large number of established colonists, who got married when they reached their destination.

The Catholics from Arad, the Orthodox from Ineu and the Reformed from Zerind had similar marriage percentages (21-23%), foreign grooms being recruited mostly from County settlements. The low percentage of 8% registered among the Catholics of Ineu probably relates to the demographic decrease of this confession throughout the eighteenth century.

VI. Rural habitat - Urban habitat in the county of Arad in the eighteenth century and early nineteenth century

Analysis of the habitat forms depending on various criteria led me to several conclusions. Eighteenth century meant direct intervention of the absolutist state that succeeded, mainly in Banat and Arad plain, in the hilly area of "land of Criş", to change visibly the structure and form of the traditional habitat. This habitat policy aimed to the founding of new settlements by colonization or restriction/liquidation of the dispersed and scattered villages. The goal was one of higher economic recovery and efficientization of the tax system. This intervention is understandable in terms of economic development and state interests, but for the peasant economy from Transylvania, Banat and Partium the consequence was the transformation, the disruption of the traditional system of peasant labour. However, maybe just this dispersal of traditional has speeded up history, paved the way for modernization, and this can be seen to this day.

Both numerically and functionally, the character of the habitat was predominantly rural in the former county of Arad in the eighteenth century. The village has underwent - at least in some places - a process of remodelling the residential structures and even its productive bases, but remained deeply attached to the productive capacity of the earth. Undoubtedly, the natural conditions - seemingly unchanging - had influence on the formation of settlements over time. This influence was stronger than in the past, when human dependence on nature was likely much higher. Environmental conditions and in particular the presence of natural resources formed the basis of the existence of territorial differentiation and therefore the habitat. The degree of influence the natural environment had on the rural habitat made itself felt, especially in the location of settlements and their morpho-functional structure.

Transition to modernity has been slower and less intense in Central and Eastern Europe than in the Western part, if we consider the structure and functions of urban settlements. Inequalities between regions are visible if we analyze the position, the role of cities in society, their political and economic influence. In Central Europe prevailed the small and medium-sized cities. In Hungary, some towns enhanced their functions of regional markets, administrative and religious centers, while others remained with agricultural population that had a social structure less diverse and with limited functions. For example, in 1780 there were 61 cities in Hungary and only 8 in Transylvania, the number of the market towns being also disproportionate: 431 in Hungary and only 70 in Transylvania.

The asymmetry of urban growth has preoccupied historians especially because it is one of the multiple aspects related to the comparative study of the emergence of modern

societies in various parts of Europe. In order to understand the gaps we need to know not only the demographic and economic determinations but also the historical and geographical developments, which often have interfered with the development of settlements in whole region. Not surprisingly, when constraints disappeared, favourable conditions arose for developing the urban habitat, evidence for this being the whole evolution of Arad County in the eighteenth century.

In Arad County in 1787, there were 15 settlements with oppidum status (market town). Only one of them – Arad – had a clear urban character, while the others could be regarded as half-urban settlements. Some market towns did not differ from villages even in terms of population, on the contrary, some had a much smaller population. Market towns like Dezna, Săvârşin, Vărădia were under 1000 inhabitants in 1787, much less than some villages like Şimand, Socodor or Covăsânţ that had over 2000 inhabitants. Yet because these market towns were the seeds of future cities in the eighteenth century I think it is fair to believe that their people belong to the half-urban habitat.

A further evidence of the importance of Arad during the whole eighteenth century is that there were concentrated the most important resources of the county, both demographically and economically. In 1787, a rate of 26.09% of all urban and semi-urban population of the administrative unit was located in the city. Also, in Arad was 6.15% of the entire population of the county, the percentage representing the most consistent part of the 23.59% population of the market towns. By comparison, the population of the royal free cities all over Transylvania was 4.93%, while the percentage of the population of all urban and semi-urban settlements was 12.92%. From this point of view, the degree of urbanization in the former county of Arad was almost double than that recorded in Transylvania.

Market towns of Arad county in 1787 with the number of houses and population

Market town	No. of houses	Population	% of population market town	% of county population
Arad	1597	9410	26.09	6.15
Şiria	719	4236	11.74	2.77
Pecica Română	638	3759	10.42	2.46
Pecica Maghiară	515	3034	8.41	1.98
Ghioroc	204	1202	3.33	0.79
Sântana	361	2127	5.90	1.39
Şiclău	359	2115	5.86	1.38
Ineu	353	2080	5.77	1.36
Zarand	208	1226	3.40	0.80
Buteni	314	1850	5.13	1.21
Sebiş	210	1237	3.43	0.81
Radna	242	1426	3.95	0.93
Dezna	160	943	2.61	0.62
Săvârşin	143	843	2.34	0.55
Vărădia de Mureş	99	583	1.62	0.38
Total	6122	36071	100	23.59

Moreover, as demographic weight, Arad had over 9,000 inhabitants in 1787, well above some royal free towns such as: Alba with 4777 inhabitants, Turda with 4566 inhabitants and Oradea with 4245 inhabitants, even above the average of 7920 inhabitants for royal cities from Transylvania or the average from entire Hungary, which were around 7139 inhabitants.

Market towns and towns population from Transylvania and from Arad County in 1787

Adm. unit	No. of market towns	No. of the royal free cities	Inhabitants of the market towns	Inhabitants of the cities	Av. market towns inhabitants	Av. cities inhabitants	Av. market towns and cities inhabitants
Transylvania	65	9	115284	71281	1773	7920	2519
Arad County	15	-	36071		2404		2404

In the rural habitat was concentrated 76.41% of the county population in 1787. With an overall average of 700 inhabitants per village Arad County was above average among the administrative units, according to this criterion, compared to 496 inhabitants per village, which is the average for Transylvania. In terms of percentage of rural population, Arad County is very close to the county of Cluj with 78.64%, Alba with 80.33% and Sibiu with 80.94%, unlike other counties where this proportion was much higher – Hunedoara with 96.06% or Solnocul Interior with 93.56%. Classification of villages by size shows prevalence of relatively small villages - 51.5% - with a population between 47 and 499 people. Small and medium villages with a population up to 1000 people represented 75.45% of the total rural settlements of the county. Large villages, with over 1000 inhabitants, were 41, representing 24.55% of all villages of the county. Most large villages were in the administrative subunits Șiria and Zarand. This can be explained, because the plain area, with all facilities, favoured the existence of villages with large population. This is why there were fewer small settlements.

The localities of Transylvania and Arad County by the size in the 1787

No. inhabitants	No. of Transylvania localities	% of Transylvania localities	Total no. of Arad localities	% from Arad localities	No. of villages in Arad County	% from villages
1-99	128	0,4	18	9,89	18	10,78
100-199	320	2,6				
200-299	517	6,8	68	37,36	68	40,72
300-499	947	19,3				
500-999	1037	36,9	43	23,63	40	23,95
1000-1999	260	17	42	23,08	37	22,16
2000-2999	42	5,3	6	3,3	3	1,8
3000-4999	27	5,5	4	2,2	1	0,6
5000-9999	11	3,8	1	0,55		
Over 10000	3	2,4				

Situation of year 1828 has seen some changes in Arad County. On the one hand, the share of small villages with a population up to 500 people decreased (41.6%), and on the other hand, the percentage of large villages with over 1000 inhabitants increased (35.26%). In 1787 there were only 4 villages with a population over 2000 inhabitants, but in 1828 their number was 9, of which 4 are very large villages with a population of over 3000 inhabitants (Covăsânț, Curtici, Socodor, and Semlac).

In a brief note on that, according to major relief units, the plain surface comprises by far the greatest part and at the same time was the most favourable area for housing, if we consider that over two thirds of the population lived in this space. Intermediate habitat is most notable by the large number of settlements, which are spread over a relatively small area in the hill region and the depression of the county. Finally, the mountainous habitat is characterized by large surface, but with a small number of settlements and population living in this area.

The habitat forms on the landscape units and the average density in 1787

Habitat form	Relief unit	Surface km ²	% of county surface	Total localities	% from total localities	Total inhabitants in 1787	% from total pop.	Dens. inh./ km ²
Plain habitat	Arad's Plain	2000	33.33	30	16.48	56239	36.77	28.12
	Criș's Plain	2000	33.33	34	18.68	37874	24.76	18.94
	Mureș's Meadow	100	1.67	17	9.34	9180	6.00	91.80
Total		4100	68.33	81	44.51	103293	67.54	25.19
Hill and depression habitat	Piedmont Codru-Moma	100	1.67	15	8.24	5910	3.86	59.10
	Hills of Zarand	200	3.33	4	2.20	2050	1.34	10.25
	Gurahonț Depression	125	2.08	31	17.03	11719	7.66	93.75
	Zarand Depression	175	2.92	33	18.13	20976	13.71	119.86
Total		600	10	83	45.60	40655	26.58	67.76
Mountain habitat	Zarand Mountains	1200	20	16	8.79	6817	4.46	5.68
	Codru-Moma Mountains	100	1.67	-	-	-	-	0.00
Total		1300	21.67	16	8.79	6817	4.46	5.24
Unidentified localities				2	1.10	395	0.26	
Praedium						1779	1.16	
Total		6000	100%	182	100	152939	100.00	25.49

As regards population density, the situation has changed notably during the eighteenth century and early nineteenth century. At the beginning of the studied period there were only 2-3 inhabitants per km² in Arad County, but their number almost tripled at the middle of the

century, then, during the census of Joseph II reaching 25 inhabitants per km², and in 1828 34.5 people per km². From this perspective, in 1787, Arad County was comparable with Hunedoara County, which had 22 inhabitants/km², Cluj County with 21.2 inhabitants/km², Sătmar County with 22 inhabitants/km², the average being around 22.6 inhabitants/km² in Transylvania. The density in the hilly and depression areas is clearly much higher than that in mountainous areas: 67.76 inhabitants/km², respectively 5.24 inhabitants/km². The two numbers come to confirm once again that habitat types emerged and developed where natural conditions were more favourable.

VII. Aspects of daily life in the city of Arad in the eighteenth century

Finally, I completed the overview of Arad County with a chapter covering various aspects about daily life. The eighteenth century was for Arad a different period than the previous. The new Habsburg rule brought not only a new formula of government and tax paying, but also elements of an obviously higher civilization. Some followed issues were: how this major change entered in the daily life of people, which were the relations between governed and rulers at different times of the eighteenth century and early nineteenth century, what people of Arad city have done in less fruitful times.

Marriage contracts, records scores, summative tables, price lists are several categories of documents that formed the basis of studies that have tried to emphasize aspects of city life, community life, relations at the level of ordinary people, in social groups, relationships with local institutions, etc.

In the epilogue of this paper, I wish to say that the issue of demographic trends in the eighteenth century and early nineteenth century is not exhausted for Arad County. However, I have the belief that the few listed aspects may represent a future study material, aimed to complement or to reveal new issues of the surveyed period, either using the methodological inventory of other research disciplines, or by extension to other categories of sources.

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