

THE BRÂNCOVEANUS' DESTINIES: THE GREATNESS AND DOWNFALL OF PREDA BRÂNCOVEANU

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Abstract: Preda Brâncoveanu was the descendant of one of the largest and oldest boyar family in Wallachia. Brâncoveanu boyars were the descendants of the powerful Craioveanu boyars and related to Neagoe Basarab and this was the reason why they claimed the throne of Wallachia. In this study we focus on the evolution of Preda Brâncoveanu's career and we try to accurately present every important moment of the history of Wallachia in which the great boyar from Brâncoveni was involved. Despite his violent death and the voivode's persecution, Preda Brâncoveanu strengthened his family's position, which allowed Constantin Brâncoveanu's ascent to the throne of Wallachia.

Keywords: 17th century, Wallachia, boyars, real estate, Preda Brâncoveanu, high office.
