EMIGRAREA DIN ADA KALEH: O ÎNCERCARE DE EVADARE DINTR-UN PARADIS FISCAL ÎN PERIOADA INTERBELICĂ

Metin OMER*

Abstract: This article analyzes the situation of the inhabitants of the Danube island Ada Kaleh during the interwar period. Two are the main issues addressed: the tax privileges enjoyed by the islanders and their attempts to emigrate.

Disputed at the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century by Austro-Hungary and the Ottoman Empire, finally, as a result of the geopolitical configuration at the end of the First World War, Ada Kaleh became part of the Romanian territory. However, the Republic of Turkey has tried to keep the island or at least get the consent of the officials of Bucharest to place the Turks from Ada Kaleh on the Turkish territory, in Yalova. Both initiatives failed.

Taking into account the unique historical past and the ethnic composition of the island, the Romanian authorities granted it a special fiscal status. However, although business on the island was thriving, a group of islanders accused that the privileges became a monopoly of a small group of people and tried to leave the island by emigrating to Turkey. In this case, also, the Romanian authorities opposed and the approach did not have success.

In trying to get an explanation regarding the failures of the emigration initiatives in writing the article, archive documents, and press articles were used.

Keywords: Ada Kaleh; Romania; Turkey; emigration