

**BOOK REVIEW. DUMITRU OTOVESCU, CRISTINA OTOVESCU
(COORD.), THE CRAIOVA CITY: A MONOGRAPHY, BELADI:
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On Wednesday, February 28, 2018, at the Gaudeamus Book Fair, in the foyer of the "Marin Sorescu" National Theater, an impressive monograph of Craiova City was launched, to which over 20 specialists contributed. The work is coordinated by the university professors Dumitru and Cristina Otovescu and from the collections of authors being part of the academic community of Craiova, such as Sandu Boengiu, Dinica Ciobotea, Cezar Avram, Firmilian Calota, Tudorel Ciurea, Carmen Banța etc.

The paper is bilingual (Romanian-English), being a useful tool in this respect not only for the locals, who can get to know the community in all its constitutive aspects, but also for tourists and researchers interested in

the history and present of the Money Fortress. Through its multidisciplinary character, as well as through the depth of the volume analysis, this work makes you believe not only that it is an atypical monograph, but also an anthology, an almanah or even an encyclopedia dedicated to the citizens and not only.

The first chapter of the paper focuses on the description of the natural framework, in the style of the tradition initiated by Dimitrie Gusti. An important role is given to the development of the locality from Antiquity to the dawn of the modern age. The architectural evolution of the city, the way it has moved from the slums to the neighborhoods, is widely presented. The city's leadership and administration are described in the period 1864-2017, and the achievements of all the mayors of the city are presented almost exhaustively. There is presented also a subchapter based on a sociological research that captures the perceptions and representations of the citizens of Craiova regarding the image of the public authorities in the community. The chapter about the city's inhabitants brings to

the fore the relevant demographic aspects, referring to the statics and dynamics of the population, analyzed both synchronously and diachronically.

The fourth chapter is dedicated to education, presenting the school network and university education. Following are the cultural institutions and the specificity of the spiritual life of the city, with an emphasis on religious settlements. Here are presented the most prestigious personalities and families that have become remarkable throughout the history of the community: musicians, painters, actors, architects, writers, publicists, scientists, politicians, etc. A particularly interesting chapter is dedicated to urban culture, which reproduces legends, stories, myths, specific traditions of the city and is part of an anthropological perspective of analysis.

There are also the elements of the quality of life, the health of the inhabitants, the main medical conditions that affect the community, the general state of health, the perceptions and representations about the health and the living conditions, the situation of the social assistance services. For economy and business we've reserved a separate chapter, which maps the dynamics of these areas from the emergence of the first economic organizations based on capitalist principles to their current state, with a unique and very ingenious ranking of employers according to the number of employees. The chapters dedicated to sports and tourism are of particular interest to foreigners who can be familiar with the area's tourist attractions. The last chapter places the city of Craiova in a wider international context, with an emphasis on its place in the international relations system, the promotion of the city in the media and the emigration of the citizens in various European countries.

In conclusion, the reviewed book offers a unique, integral, inter-systematic and interdisciplinary perspective on Craiova, with a special emphasis on local institutions and personalities as central pillars of urban community life. Under the coordination of Professor Dumitru Otovescu, over 20 monographs of some communities, institutions and personalities from the Oltenia region and beyond have been made so far. In the end, the work comes to harness the prolific activity of the Sociological School in Craiova in the field of field monographs, being, from this point of view, the expression of constant preoccupations for the refinement of the monographic method and for its connection to the contemporary social realities.