

# MacBeth Digital Seminar: Political Tyrant - Nicolae Ceausescu



# Biography; The Beginning

Nicolae Ceausescu was born on January 26, 1918 in a small town named Scornicesti in Romania, it was there Ceausescu grew up. He lived a poor life in his early years mostly due to the negative effects of the communist movement that started in 1917. Nicolae studied at Scomicest elementary school until the age of 11, he had ran away from his abusive, alcoholic father to Bucharest. He then lived with his sister, and became an apprentice shoemaker and was later employed in one of the Romanian factories. At the age of 15 he was first arrested in 1933 for street fighting during a strike, and in 1934 he was collecting signatures on a petition protesting the trial of railway workers and twice more for other similar activities. By the mid-1930s, he had been in missions in Bucharest where he was arrested several times. Nicolae was named "A dangerous Communist agitator" and "Distributor of Communist and antifascist propaganda materials" from police. Not long after Nicolae was a rising leader in the Union of Communist Youth Party. After joining the Communist Party he was later arrested and sentenced to 30 months in prison. He was sent to Doftana Prison in Brasov, a harsh facility where authorities were known for their brutal torture.

# Biography; The Rise to Power

And then In 1944 with the world at war, power started to lose ground in Romania from Soviet invasion, this allowed Nicolae to escape from prison. Within a year, Romania fell under Communist rule which made Nicolae his climb to power. By 1945, Nicolae was ranked general in the Romanian Army. Over the next two decades he would have power in the country's government and Communist party. After the world war in 1955, he was made a full-time member of the Politburo and soon became supreme ruler.



# Biography; The Fall

Overtime Nicolae had caused the country to plummet economically. This resulted in extreme shortages of food, fuel, energy, medicines, and other basic needs. In 1989, the fall of Romania began, the outrage of the Romanian people erupted with protests in the city of Timișoara. The situation became extremely uncontrolled with people destroying the city, the Romanian people were after Nicolae because he was the main cause for the dying country. Nicolae he ordered his security forces to fire on anti-government demonstrators in the city of Timișoara to hopefully create a controlled. The total amount of casualties resulted in 60,000 people which sparked the Romanian Revolution. This act caused his own country to oppose him, his power immediately fell and became a country target. Soon after he attempted to flee the capital in a helicopter but was then captured by the armed forces. He was later arrested and tried, on December 25, 1989 Ceausescu was charged with Genocide – over 60,000 victims, Subversion of state power by organizing armed actions against the people and state power, Offense of destruction of public property by destroying and damaging buildings, explosions in cities etc. Undermining the national economy. Trying to flee the country using funds of over \$1 billion deposited in foreign banks. Nicolae was executed that day.

# The comparison to Nicolae and MacBeth

- Ambition

Nicolae wanting power from the beginning, and being influenced from communist groups to soon become a leader.

- Macbeth's wanting to become king and was influenced from lady Macbeth;

"I do fear thy nature, It is too full o' th' milk of human kindness, To catch the nearest way. Thou wouldst be great, Art not without ambition, but without The illness should attend it"(Act i, v).

- Corruption, non logical decision making

Nicolae had no reason to send a firing squad to kill people.

- Macbeth has no filter.

"From this moment The very firstlings of my heart shall be The firstlings of my hand. And even now, To crown my thoughts with acts, be it thought and done: The castle of Macduff I will surprise, Seize upon Fife, give to th' edge o' th' sword His wife, his babes, and all unfortunate souls That trace him in his line." (Act iv, i)

# Violation of Human Rights

Nicolae violates many human rights do to his genocidal acts which he had demonstrated in his country.

- Article 3; Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.
- Article 12; No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation.
- Article 2; Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.

# Discussion Questions

- Who was worse Macbeth or Nicolae?
- Did Nicolae deserve to be executed ?
- Did Communism have any affect with Nicolaes decision making?

# Work Cited

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