

Romania's policy in the Middle East (1950-1970). Challenges and opportunities

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Abstract

Could small states rise against the superpowers of the Cold War in order to promote their own interests in world affairs? This was the basic premise for this study and it argues that, in the period of reference, Romania could and did develop an independent policy in the Middle East, different from that of the Communist bloc. In spite of similarities, Romania's policy pursued its own economic and political interests, aimed at identifying alternative sources of raw materials and markets, in order to reduce its vulnerability in front of Moscow. The basic aim was to be acknowledged as an independent partner. Relying on Romanian Communist Party sources, declassified in the recent years, this study reveals that this policy was successful and its goals were reached.

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