

**THE HABSBURGS AT THE DANUBE'S MOUTH.
FROM GEOPOLITICS TO NAVIGATION ISSUES**

Ileana CĂZAN*

Abstract: The Pontic policy of the House of Austria was a maximal plan of conquering the entire Black Sea area. The coordinates of this policy consisted, for 150 years, of some realistic and pragmatic views, but also included a vast utopian component. The Pontic policy aimed at the widened area of the lower course and the Mouth of the Danube, as a natural extension of the Black Sea area and the Straits. One of the most important issue in order to establish a Danube trade route was that regarding the right category of vessels, which could sail down from Vienna to the Mouth of the Danube and eventually sail out into the Black Sea. As it was natural, the idea of an Austrian exportation on the Danube was born simultaneous with the preoccupations regarding navigation improvement.

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