



Radu Ciuceanu was born on April 16, 1928, in Arad.

He graduated from the 'Carol I' High School in Craiova in 1946, and in 1947 enrolled in the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Bucharest. His studies were interrupted after one year, as in September 1948 he was arrested by the Securitate, after it was discovered that he was a member of the Military Committee of the N.R.M.O. (National Resistance Movement in Oltenia) – under the command of General Iancu Carlaonț. In 1949 he was sentenced to 15 years of hard imprisonment for the 'crime of conspiracy against the social order', which he served in the prisons of Craiova, Pitești, Jilava, Târgșor, Gherla, Aiud, and Văcărești.

Documents from the investigation and trial files of the N.R.M.O. were published by Radu Ciuceanu at NIST in a series of five volumes (*The National Resistance Movement in Oltenia 1945–1949*, Vols. I–V, 2001–2007). The traumatizing experience of the years spent in prison, especially the passage through the re-education process, was recounted in six volumes of memoirs published between 1993 and 2017, as well as in the historical novel *Beautiful Days of Youth...* (2011).

In 1963, he was released at the end of his sentence, but was placed under compulsory domicile until 1965. He was denied the right to work and to hold an identity card until 1965. For a period, he worked as an unskilled laborer (1965–1966), then as a librarian at the Central Institute for Agricultural Research (22.02.1966 – 05.05.1966), and as a worker at the Institute for Studies and Land Improvement Surveys (05.05.1966 – 01.10.1967).

In the autumn of 1967, he was hired as a documentary employee at the Institute of Archaeology within the Academy of the R.S.R., and in 1973 he became a scientific documentary employee. Between

1968 and 1972, Radu Ciuceanu attended the courses of the Faculty of History at the University of Bucharest, earning his degree in 1972 with a specialization in the History of Romania.

On 01.01.1975 he became an archaeologist at the Institute of Archaeology, but held this position for only one month, as a decision was made to remove former political prisoners from the Academy's institutes. With great difficulty, he managed to secure employment from July 1, 1975 as an archaeologist at the Museum of the History of the Municipality of Bucharest, where he remained until February 1990.

During these years, he carried out archaeological excavations at Putna, Coșula, Mihăilești, Afumați, Ghica-Tei, Pantelimon, Văcărești, Colțea, etc., and published research reports in the specialized journals of the time.

After his release from prison and until 1989, he was permanently under surveillance by the Securitate. Documents from this surveillance file were reproduced in the volumes *The Journal of a Quiet Man. Code Name: Artist, 1963–1970*, Vol. I, NIST, Bucharest, 2005; and *The Journal of a Quiet Man. Code Name: Cucu, 1970–1989*, Vol. II, NIST, Bucharest, 2006.

Although he knew he was being under permanent surveillance, he nevertheless had the courage to meet with some of his former fellow prisoners, who had begun to speak out again against the Ceaușescu regime, such as the dissident Gheorghe Calciu-Dumitreasa.

Likewise, during the 1980s, together with Daniel Barbu and Octavian Roske, Radu Ciuceanu collaborated clandestinely and sent abroad, at great personal risk, the studies 'The Condition of the Monument under the Communist Regime' (broadcast on Radio Free Europe, July–September 1981, under the signature of the Group for the Protection of Historical Monuments), and 'Will Bucharest Survive until 1984?' (broadcast on Radio Free Europe, June–August 1985). These studies were later published in the journal 'Arhivele Totalitarismului' in several issues (AT, 3–4/2000, pp. 196–212; AT, 1–2/2001, pp. 205–229; AT, 3–4/2001, pp. 231–241; AT, 3–4/2003, pp. 200–211).

He participated in the events of the Romanian Revolution of December 1989 in defense of the Romanian Television, subsequently becoming a member of the 'Club 22' TV organization.

In 1990 he became a founding member of the Association of Former Political Prisoners in Romania (A.F.D.P.R.).

As Vice-President of the Chamber of Deputies (1990–1992), Radu Ciuceanu also served as President of the Commission for the Investigation of Abuses, Corruption, and Petitions (2001–2004).

On 01.08.1992 he returned as a Grade III researcher at the Museum of the History of the Municipality of Bucharest, from where, on 01.02.1993, he was seconded to the Ministry of Culture as an advisor to the Minister of Culture on issues concerning the national heritage.

In 1993 he founded the National Institute for the Study of Totalitarianism, an institute under the aegis of the Romanian Academy, dedicated to research on Romania's totalitarian past. Over nearly 30 years of activity, under the leadership of Dr. Radu Ciuceanu, NIST carried out intensive research reflected in the publication of 117 journal issues of *Arhivele Totalitarismului* and 174 volumes of studies, documents, memoirs, dictionaries, and encyclopedias. At his initiative, the National Pantheon project was also launched, aimed at consecrating, in a solemn architectural space, the respect for the great values that contributed to defining Romanian identity.

In 2016 he received the title of Doctor Honoris Causa from Ovidius University of Constanța, and in 2017 the title of Doctor Honoris Causa from the '1 December 1918' University of Alba Iulia.

An honorary member of the 'Saints of the Prisons' Foundation since 2012, Radu Ciuceanu received in 2017 the Patriarchal Cross, the highest distinction of the Romanian Patriarchate.

On September 27, 2019 he was elected an honorary member of the Romanian Academy.

A symbol of the struggle against totalitarianism, Radu Ciuceanu passed away on September 12, 2022, at the age of 94.