Outline

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- A flash-back through 2000 years of history – “Dracula” included
- People, Culture and Religion
- Geography
Facts and Stats

- **Official Name:** Romania
- **Location:** (Southeastern) Central Europe
- **Flag:** red-blood/yellow-grains/blue-sky
- **Time Zone:** 7 hours ahead of U.S.EST (GMT + 2)
- **Population:** 19,334,000 (October 2016)
- **Main Ethnic Groups:** Romanian 84%, Hungarian 6.1%, Gipsy 3.1%, German 0.2%
- **Currency:** Leu (plural Lei - pronunciation "lay" - abbreviations: RON = 0.25 $)
- **GDP 2015:** $ 178 Billion (forecasted growth next 5 years is 3.5% per year)
- **Climate:** Temperate, 4 distinct seasons, similar to northeastern USA
- **Capital:** Bucharest (București --- pronunciation: boo koo re sh tea)
- **Form of State:** democracy, bicameral Parliament Chamber of Representatives + Senate
- **Memberships:** European Union (EU) and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
Major cities - Bucharest

- Capital of Romania
- Metropolitan Area: 2.27 million (6th-largest city in the EU)
- Main business hub for Romania
- 16 public Univ.
- Largest University of Bucharest
  - 32,000 students
  - Rank 2 in Romania
Major cities – Cluj-Napoca

- Second largest: 420,000 (metropolitan area)
- University Babes-Bolyai – rank no. 1 in Romania – 41,000 students
- Recorded for the first time by the Greek geographer Claudius Ptolemy (AD 85–165)
- It was elevated to municipality during the reign of the Emperor Hadrian (AD 117–138) under the name of Municipium Aelium Hadrianum Napoca
- Later became the Colony Aurelia Napoca had institutions, a local senate, magistrates, a people’s assembly, city status in the Roman Empire
- Clus in Latin “surrounded by hills”, Napoca include the names of some Dacian tribes such as the Naparis, “timbered valley”
Major cities – Timisoara

- Population 320,000
- Roman Castrum Temesiense (1200 AD)
- **West University of Timisoara** - The 4th Romanian University
Major cities – Iași

- Population 290,000
- Located in the historical region of Moldavia
- The Cultural Capital of Romania, Iași is a symbol in Romanian history
- Important education and research centers accommodates over 60,000 students in 5 public universities
- Alexandru Ioan Cuza University – 26,000 students, Rank 3 in Romania
- Iași National Theatre – 1816 – oldest in the country
Major Cities - Constanta

- Population: 284,000
- Historically known as Tomis (approx. 200 BC)
- Founded by Tomyris the queen of the Massagetae after defeating Cyrus the Great (214 BC - Persian army was wiped out)
- Location: Western Black Sea shores – Port city
- Ovidius University of Constanta – 16,000 students
Major Cities - Brasov

- Population: 253,000
- The oldest traces of human activity and settlements in Brașov date back to the Neolithic age (9,500 BC)
- 1235 AD - Brașov came from the name of local river named Bârsa
- Popular Ski Resort (Poiana Brasov)
A flash-back through 2000 years of history – “Dracula” included
Dacia Felix (82 B.C)

- Latin (fēlix, felicis) and means "lucky", "favored by luck" or "the lucky one". In Romanian "fericit" means happy (feliz in Spanish)

- Why was this region so happy?
  - vast natural resources (fertile lands, pure waters, gold, largest mines of salt and copper in Europe at that time)
  - The region was inhabited by Geto-Daci – The empire was ruled by Burebista (82–44 BC)
  - He led expansion wars with the near tribes expanding the empire.
Dacia Felix & Dacian Wars

- **Decebalus** (A.D. 87–106) was the last king of Dacia.
  - defeated a Roman invasion in the reign of Domitian, securing a period of independence
  - When Trajan came to power, his armies invaded Dacia to weaken its threat to Roman border territory.
  - Roman invasion in 105, absorbing Dacia into the Roman Empire. Decebalus committed suicide to avoid capture.

- **Marcus Ulpius Trajanus** (A.D. 52–117)
  - Roman Emperor - entered the city on foot, he embraced each of the senators and even walked among the ordinary people.
  - Story of the Dacian Wars is illustrated in the impressive relief carvings which spiral upwards around 'Trajan's Column', a monumental pillar standing Trajan's Forum in Rome.
  - Preserved and cherished Dacia's culture and heritage.
Dacia during the Roman rule

- Many Roman Castra were built – now some are cities
- Modernized the military system
- As the Roman empire was falling apart some generals would take refuge at the outskirts of the empire
- New language – Romanian – mixture between Geto-Dacic and Latin
- Christianity replaced the monotheist belief in God Zalmoxis
Romania between IX-XI Century

- 3 principalities
  - Gelu’s principality in the Transilvania center
  - Menumorut’s principality in the Crișana region
  - Glad’s principality in the Banat region
- Primarily agricultural society
- Some mining: salt mines, copper mines and gold mines
- Defending wars against the invading Otoman Empire (from south-east)
- Ottoman armies commit atrocities during invasions, women are kidnapped to become slaves and kids are trained to become ottoman soldiers.
Romania between XII-XIV Century

- Vlad “the Impaler” comes to power and in 1461 wages war against the Ottoman empire.
  - Applies impaling of the enemy as psychological warfare to subdue huge Ottoman armies.
  - Chooses narrow passages for the fights limiting the enemy’s capability to attack from all angles.
  - Attacks at night using “guerrilla” tactics to confuse the enemy.
  - Ottoman prisoners are impaled
Vlad the Impaler aka Dracula

- Dracula’s Castle (Bran in Brasov county)

[http://www.bran-castle.com](http://www.bran-castle.com)
Peles Castle – extraordinary detail in/out
Romania between XV-XVI Century - Renaissance

- 3 Principalities
  - Transylvania
  - Moldavia
  - Wallachia
- 1593-1601 Mihai Viteazul (Michael the Brave)
- Defeats Ottomans again
  - Several battles (e.g. Calugareni – Aug 23, 1595, 16,000 Romanian vs 40,000 Turks, casualties est. 1,000 / 15,000)
  - War tactics: swampy areas, night attacks, cannons
- Unites all 3 principalities as Romania in 1601
- Stops the expansion of the Ottoman Empire from the South
- Betrayed and assassinated by the leaders of the Austrian Empire in a ring of struggle for power
Romania between XVII-XVIII Century

- Struggle of the Ottoman, Austro-Hungarian and Russian empire to break Romania
- Different Romanian leaders fight for independence (Dimitrie Cantemir, Tudor Vladimirescu, Avram Iancu etc.)
- 1859 Alexandru Ioan Cuza – re-declares Romania as an independent state (declaration recognized by European countries except Austria and Turkey)
- 1877 – Pact with Russia against the Ottomans
- 1878 – Final war with the Ottoman Empire – ottomans retreat to current Turkey borders (Russo-Turkish War of 1877–78 was a conflict between the Ottoman Empire and the Eastern Orthodox coalition led by the Russian Empire and composed of Bulgaria, Romania, Serbia, and Montenegro)
I World War

- **WWI** (August 1916 – Dec. 1917 & Nov. 1918)
  - **Romanian campaign** was part of the Balkan theatre of World War I, with Romania and Russia allied against the armies of the Central Powers (Germany, Austria-Hungary, the Ottoman Empire and Bulgaria).
  - Romania entered the war in an attempt to seize Transilvania, a region with significant Romanian population, from the Austro-Hungarian Empire.
  - Collapse of the Austro-Hungarian Empire => Transilvania re-annexed to Romania (*December 1, 1918 – National Day of Romania*)
- **Hungarian–Romanian War** (Nov. 1918 – March 1920)
  - 3 phases – last phase March 1919 (Bela Kun – communist party - took power in Hungary and set up Hungarian Soviet Republic in an attempt to get Russian support to keep Transilvania)
  - August 1919 – Budapest is conquered by Romanian army, the communist regime is ousted
  - Romanian army retreats from Budapest and leave the Hungarian Social-Democrats in power.
II World War

- September 1939 - under King Carol II, Romania officially adopted a position of neutrality
- 1940 the 2 main grantors of territorial integrity for Romania (Britain and France) fell (see, Fall of France)
- Nov. 1940 Hungary joins the Axis and claims territory from all its neighbors amplifying the war in the region
- Days later Nov. 1940 Romania joins the Axis in a tactical alliance to preserve its territory (under the tactical leadership of Army general Ion Antonescu)
  (NOT knowing about the Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact Nazi-Soviet Pact => Germany gave Soviet Union – ½ of Moldavia territory (currently known as the Moldova)
- June 1941, Romania forced to fight alongside Germans against Russians in the invasion of the Soviet Union
- 23 August 1944, King Michael I coup d'état removed Antonescu from power and turn Romania against the Axis.
- Romania suffered territory losses (Moldavia to Russia and southern parts to Bulgaria)
Communist Era

- After the IIWW Easter European territories were left under the Soviet Union control
- Communist party took over and ousted the Romanian monarchy
- 1947 to 1989 - Socialist Republic of Romania
  - Significant industrial revolution and expansion - from 1951 to 1974, Romania's gross industrial output increased at an average annual rate of 13% per year.
  - 1974 Ceausescu becomes president – expansion continued till 1979
  - The 1979 energy crisis, Romania falls short its debt and request IMF a line of credit
  - 1980 Ceausescu takes austerity measures to pay the country’s national debt in full
    - severe rationing, people became unhappy
    - Increased social control, communist security service oppression, travel bans outside the country etc...
  - 1986 Half of the IMF debt is paid
  - Spring 1989 - all IMF debt is payed – Romania the ONLY country in Europe without loans
  - Fall 1989 – Ceausescu is removed from power (1989 Revolution)
1990 - now

- Democracy
- Bicameral Parliament: Chamber of Representatives + Senate
- Current president: Klaus Iohannis (former mayor of Sibiu city)
- Current debt: $ 67 Billion
- 2015 GDB: $ 178 Billion

But let’s stop here with the politics ....
People, Culture and Religion
Hora is a traditional Romania folk dance that gathers everyone into a big closed circle. The dancers hold each other's hands and the circle spins.
Traditional Costumes
Traditional Costumes
Other traditional ethnic costumes

Saxon of Transylvania people

Gipsy people
Hungarian people

Macedo-romanian people
Traditional Wedding
Culture & Art
Constantin Brâncuși

- Internationally renowned Romanian sculptor whose sculptures, which blend simplicity and sophistication, led the way for modernist sculptors.
The Gate of Kiss
The Table of Silence
Infinite Column
Mademoiselle Pogany
Mihai Eminescu (1850-1889)
Poetry

- So far it is athwart the blue
  To where yon star appears,
  That for its light to reach our view
  Has needed thousand years.

- Maybe that ages gone it shed
  Its glow, then languished in the skies,
  Yet only now its rays have sped
  Their journey to our eyes.

- The icon of the star that died
  Slowly the vault ascended;
  Time was ere it could first be spied,
  We see now what is ended.

- So is it when our love’s aspire
  Is hid beneath night’s bowl,
  The gleam of its extinguished fire
  Enkindles yet our soul.
George Enescu 1881-1955

Romanian composer, violinist, pianist, conductor, and teacher

The author of Romanian Rhapsody and Oedipe
Monasteries

Christian Orthodox 81%, Roman Catholic 4.3%, Reformed 3%, Greek-Catholic 0.7%, Unitarian 0.3%, Jewish, other
Barsana Monastery
Transylvanian Brandy Jug (Oas)

Horezu ceramics
Hand made rugs
Hermitage Church
Geography
Carpathian Mountains, Rivers and Lakes

- **Carpathian Mountain Range**
  - mountain range system forming an arc roughly 1,500 km (932 mi) long across Central and Eastern Europe
  - second-longest mountain range in Europe
  - highest peaks exceed 2,600 m (8,530 ft)
  - 53% of the range is in Romania
Balea Glaciar Lake

Fagaras Mountains
Lespezi Peak - 8,257 Feet
Glacial Lakes in the Retezat Massive
Peleaga peak 8,232 ft

Taking a nap
Pointing to an electric storm instead of running
Retezat Fox
The elusive Marmot
Wolves

Brown bear
Mountain Flowers
Red Lake
Saint Ana Lake – formed in a volcano crater
Bucovina region
Danube Delta
sturgeon on the Danube near the Iron Gates
Magic *muds* – Lake TechirGhiol
Thank you

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