AN OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR ECONOMIC THINKING

The building of the manysidedly developed socialist society and the passing to communism bring to the fore with the development of material civilization and with the promotion of science, culture and education, the turning to account from positions of Marxism, of the progressive traditions of our spiritual wealth which render more substance to our socialist present.

In face of these major requirements set before research by the Romanian Communist Party, lately, an ever bigger number of men of science and culture, historians philosophers, economists, sociologists and lawyers have committed themselves to turn to account the cultural-scientific heritage in the light of the conception of dialectical and historical materialism for the valuable works achieved by the forerunners to hold a place of honour in our national patrimony.

Standing out against the background of these orientations is also the work of academician Vasile Malinschi entitled "*Professor Virgil Madgearu (1887—1940). Contributions to the Development of Economic Thinking*", recently brought out by the Publishing House of the Academy of the Socialist Republic of Romania. Undoubtedly, the critical estimation of the treasure of V. Madgearu's economic thinking with so many ups and downs is not a very easy job.

Academician V. Malinschi, a profound researcher and keen observer of V. Madgearu's work, present in the latter's field of activity, participating in his didactic and scientific actions, offers us a unitary and complex, coherent and integrated image of his scientific thinking and activity, presenting to us a real Marxist "radiograph" of the work analysed.

Firstly, the work succeeds in organically integrating the multiple and complex activity of this outstanding figure of our national culture, in close connection with an epoch characterized by profound economic, social and political unrests, marked by the intensification of the concentration and centralization of the capital, by the amplification of class contradictions, but, also by the ever more vigorous affirmation of the working class as a decisive force in the struggle of the people's masses for social progress.

The special merit of the study consists in establisling really and multilaterally, from the positions of Marxism, of the place of Virgil Madgearu's work in the history of Romanian economic thinking. As it is pointed out in the work, despite the natural limits and despite the contradictions explained by his class position, as a representative of the non-monopolistic bourgeoisie and of the petty bourgeoisie, his theoretical preoccupations had allowed him to tackle some of the problems in a more realistic manner and to make some original contributions as regards the analysis of the character, structure

and prospects of the Romanian economy of that time, his class position having limited his capacity of understanding the mission and targets of the economic science.

Secondly, the work we recommend to readers is distinguished by a renewing structure, his activity being integrated into an analysis of the system, outlining some of his subtle spheres in close connection with the multiple evolution of his activity. Being integrated into the events of his epoch, the analysis unfolds in a succession of facts sprang from the logic of life, relying on the deepest sources which had created, formed and developed V. Madgearu's personality.

At the same time, the work acquires more substance through the careful examination, on the basis of dialectical materialism, of what has remained everlasting and valuable in his economic thinking.

The author uses the deductive and inductive methods, especially the monographic and logical method of analysis, mobilizing a vast reference material, carefully processed, formulating subtle and genuine remarks which define Virgil Madgearu's personality, his way of thinking, his ideological and scientific orientation, his way of organization and action.

The valuable works which have been worked out in multiple fields, such as agrarian and industrial economy, foreign trade, finance, currency are examined, at length, in a chronological order, stress being laid on their economic significance, the vast reference materials including figures as well, the economist being doubled by an ingenious statistician.

The study grasps with much subtlety and keen observation the genuine aspects which characterize the teacher, the pedagogue and the man. His activity as a professor at the Academy of High Commercial and Industrial Studies is presented at length as well as his contribution to the organization, development and transformation of this institution of higher economic education into an institution of prestige.

Undoubtedly, V. Madgearu's conception about democracy has its limits, but, estimating critically the value of his works, from the point of view of the multilateral analysis of his personality — as it is pointed out in the work — one cannot overlook the fact that in a period in which the danger of aggressive fascism was becoming still more serious and menaced the very destiny of this country, alongside other outstanding intellectuals, he had courageously taken a patriotic-democratic stand, opposing the fascist doctrine and dictatorship. Also at that time, he succeeded in turning his seminar as well as his department into a rostrum of democratic and anti-fascist struggle.

In general, Academician Malinschi's work, through its monographic character, through the complex and multilateral investigation, the keen observing turn of mind, through the methods and way of interpretations, marks a qualitative leap in the turning to account of our cultural and scientific heritage, being an outstanding contribution to history of the development of economic thinking in our country.

Mircea Bulgaru