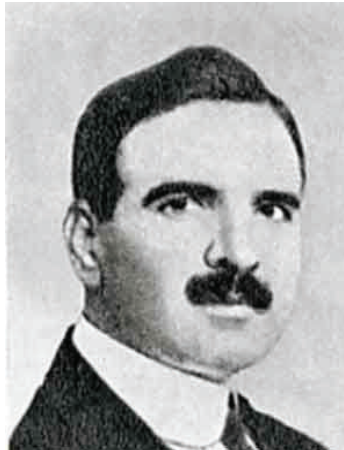


## ION NICOLAE ANGELESCU'S WORK, REALISTIC MODEL FOR THE INTERDEPENDENCE BETWEEN CULTURE AND ECONOMY

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**Motto:** „Without people' culture, every economic structure, every political form has no value” Nicolae Iorga



Professor Ion Nicolae Angelescu  
(1884-1930)

**Abstract:** *Deeply marked by socio-economic, political and cultural epoch-making changes, after The Great Connection in 1918, the professor and economist Ion Nicolae Angelescu addressed with relevance and realism these problems in most of his works.*

*The research undertaken emphasized on indissolubly relation that must be between economy and culture, that means „civilization”.*

*So, he consider the necessity of the expansion of economical culture to be decisive, this thing causes an rational, modern and vast economic behaviour for all the citizens in the country.*

*He emphasized in his work the need of an advanced economic education organization able to connect the theory with the daily practice.*

*In conclusion, professor Angelescu'opinions about the culture's role in socio-economic life and the interdependence between them express a modern, realistic and complex conception, enriching the specific literature with new and valuable ideas, beeing a permanent guiding for us today.*

**Keywords:** culture, economy, civilization, education, realism.

Perception and interpretation of existing concrete situation in an economy may be correct only based on a rich stock of general knowledge, which give to the researcher a wide field of action and guide his mind in a realistic approach of daily and future challenges on socio-economic life.

In interwar period cultural activity was held in direct connection with ample existing projects on national economic, being in contact with the progress of science and world culture.

So, „the generation that made the Great Joining and the generation that followed were fully engaged on the line defining the modern national culture in all compartments of national culture in the economic civilization”<sup>1</sup>.

Is to be mentioned : „When the unitary state became a reality from which no one had the right to avoid, any measure increasing economic civilization was conceived as wise, could not achieve victory without a methodical training on schools, cultural and scientific”<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Todossia M., Saizu I., Culture and Economy. Interwar's opinions, Junimea Publishing, 1986, p. 275.

<sup>2</sup> Ibidem, p. 23.

In this context schools should not be seen simply as a printing press, but a germ of real life and a place of planting all the traits of a good citizen; it is bound to fit in with her great spirit directives and economic trends of the time.

Economic analysts of the time (and Angelescu, too) found with relevance that Romania does not need only philosophers, but a „fruitful work and economy, the work of becoming more productive and efficient in all areas”<sup>3</sup>.

In these circumstances they have supported with solid arguments that the ideal university must respond promptly and effectively to the economic ideal field entered as a major imperative of the national basic needs.

Active spirit, endowed with a creative multivalent, I.N.Angelescu expressed consistently, a supported concern in elucidating the indissoluble link that must exist between the cultural and economic life of a people, which, as Maria and Dumitru Muresan said, "he's watching in it's full complexity and is interpreting it in many aspects”<sup>4</sup>.

In view of I.N.Angelescu, "special culture of a people, a genius of a people is an increasing and spreading factor that people spend more conscious energy”<sup>5</sup>.

In another context, I.N.Angelescu believes that "not created any culture throughout history without an economic organization and an abundant material life. If in some time, which we call a time of high civilization, justification of rivalry and attacks are used by the spread of cultural trends, so there is the fighting on the economic field. After wars on obtain material goods and favorable economic situation and, after the economic defeat of the enemy, we know that his cultural defeat is sure”<sup>6</sup>.

Beyond, Angelescu stresses: "Past history of the world gives us many proofs that throughout the gathered wealth has created a culture, a political force and a higher production of feeling and thinking”<sup>7</sup>. And his lectures on the history of trade confirm that in this subject „we have the best opportunity to show how closely linked is the economic development and the cultural development of a nation”<sup>8</sup>, because this link „ gives each member of society the possibility to understand his own place, his purpose in society and to focus his activity in the desired purpose”<sup>9</sup>.

Thus, the opinion of I.N.Angelescu is: the economic culture, put in the service of man, comes to acquire an active functional role that has a multitude of issues; so it is possible, first, disclosure, understanding and application of economic laws, which "are laws of economic life which are discovered by scientific research”<sup>10</sup> and these laws must be followed without being violated, since they enable the development of a fair economic policies. Speaking about the duties of the politicians in economic culture, I.N.Angelescu believes that "scientific research results on economic issues should be learned by all politicians as they learn to read and write or how learn elements of science or law”<sup>11</sup>, whatever which party they belong. Given that the degree of perception of scientific research in the economic sense varies from some politicians to others, only a "strong economic culture might lead to all, by virtue of logic and honesty, to accept principles and conclusions made by economic science and to act accordingly”<sup>12</sup>.

In the consistent application of effective economic policies, I.N.Angelescu states that must be taken into account "all relevant factors of economic life – and only in this case - that economic policy is closer to the positive science”<sup>13</sup>. Also, in the meaning of I.N.Angelescu, economic culture plays an important role in solving some economic, social, political and moral crisis that occur in society, and initiated reforms and regulations in this area act as a "lever or support to achieve the legislative framework of society”<sup>14</sup>.

More over, "social order can not settle through isolated measures or laws: it needs to design economic and social reforms and a system of regulation and this design or system could not be obtained using naive impressions or passionate impulses of hatred”<sup>15</sup>. In this regard, I.N.Angelescu stresses that reforms and regulation should be initiated and implemented simultaneously and with much discretion, being in the interest of

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<sup>3</sup> Ibidem, p. 35.

<sup>4</sup> Mureșan Maria și Mureșan D., Culture and Economy in I.N.Angelescu's work. Paper presented at the session teachers in May 1997 in Bucharest at the Romanian-American University, p. 378.

<sup>5</sup> Angelescu I.N., Economic power and political power, Opening lesson held in A.I.S.C.I., Professional Printing Demetrios C. Ionescu, Bucharest, 1916, p. 9.

<sup>6</sup> Ibidem, p. 10.

<sup>7</sup> Idem, Trade's history, (f.e.), Bucharest., 1915, p.54-55.

<sup>8</sup> Idem, Universal trade history in relation to economic history and cultural history of peoples, Professional Printing Demetrios C. Ionescu, Bucharest, 1915, p.28.

<sup>9</sup> Mureșan Maria și Mureșan D., op. cit., p. 379.

<sup>10</sup> Angelescu I.N., Economic history and other economics, Lesson held at A.I.S.C.I. Bucharest, 1916, p.20.

<sup>11</sup> Idem, Trade's history, Bucharest, p. 236.

<sup>12</sup> Mureșan Maria și Mureșan D., op. cit., p. 381.

<sup>13</sup> Angelescu I.N., To know the economic and market leadership. Historical and statistical study, Second Edition, Bucharest, 1914, p.5.

<sup>14</sup> Mureșan Maria și Mureșan D., op. cit., p. 382.

<sup>15</sup> Angelescu I.N., Guidance on economic and financial policy of Romania, Professional Printing Ionescu C. Dimitrie, Bucharest, 1920, p.5.

all to allow an orientation in complex economic problems and to avoid the man "falls victim to the struggle for existence" <sup>16</sup>, and to form an appropriate economic behavior. "And from the victory of our requirements result not only good physical condition of people, but also uplift them, a cultural development conditioned by an economic development" <sup>17</sup>. Further, I.N. Angelescu notes that in its struggle for a better life, "the man prepares its economic prosperity and the cultural one, as every man shall bring its economic ruin and burial of the culture" <sup>18</sup>.

His conclusion is that the distribution of wealth "is a leaven of the economic, cultural and political development of a people" <sup>19</sup>.

So "economic culture, with the facilities it offer in material life, is the result of a gradual spread of wealth in bourgeois masses of the cities, and of a transition rule for land in the hands of true farmers or before the peasants so-called land reform or by the allotment. Natural yearning of people to rise caused the competition among people, and the struggle was between men who had the power to support it. This competition between those active people in the economic life caused the technical progress, wealth and thereby raise the intellectual and moral development" <sup>20</sup>

The importance of economic scientific culture is highlighted by I.N. Angelescu in the disputes about the participation of foreign capital in the economy of our country, this capital might be brought in our country as machines and tools, and "work the most qualified in the gross will be a Romanian one" <sup>21</sup>.

Appreciating the crucial role that education has in the dissemination of economic culture, I.N. Angelescu stated: "The organization of our time is so that by means of educational data, a person can live better his material and moral life, otherwise expressed, he may have easier the goods of civilization, than no education" <sup>22</sup>.

Referring to Romania's population and its professional education, I.N. Angelescu claimed that: "The supreme duty of our generation is to struggle to finish our work to a highest civilization and a most technical development" <sup>23</sup>. About the role of state, he stated: "The first and undisputed debt of the state is training people to capitalize the national wealth. We have almost nothing so far, to which imposes new situation of our country. The few schools that we have in the Old Kingdom do not give us all the required elements and many of them are based on a theoretical and an excellent imitation and on a lack of accommodation at our real needs. Important branches of production and industrial agriculture, industries with strong foundation and great future prospects, trade with other countries lack of an adequate education. Routine and tradition are governing in these branches of work, while the gully, technical perfection knocks on our country's doors, not to give us their benefit, but to transform us into mere blind instruments, dedicated to a purpose, but not ours" <sup>24</sup>.

In the problem of competition between states, I.N. Angelescu says, "if our national production will not be able to sustain competition and we have to resort to protectionist systems, which make hard the citizens living inside, it will owe in Greater Romania over our lack of training. If there is not a unity and a coordination of forces in our national economy, this will be due to the lack of a systematic economic education" <sup>25</sup>.

In these circumstances, "should not be a citizen in his job without a settled preparatory education, should not be a citizen that does not belong to a professional association through which to receive throughout his life new lessons for his profession. But such progress somewhere spread in all directions and is used by the entire workforce of the nation" <sup>26</sup>.

In the vast organization of professional economic program proposed by I.N. Angelescu, besides the important role of the state, is mobilized the entire people, because education is "a matter which must decide all producing classes of the country" <sup>27</sup>, education is an outstanding emergency, especially for the younger generation. Therefore "we need a huge effort to give young people the elements required to take part in economic and social life today. In the annexed lands, in particular, this need is a condition of life. A comprehensive plan for education and training should be designed and launched from the beginning" <sup>28</sup>. In this direction, "the construction of schools of all grades and specialties, providing them with necessary teaching staff must be the first concern of a provident governance" <sup>29</sup>, with the organization of a higher economic education, competitive with the European one, whose responsibility it to prepare specialists with professional knowledge, but with an appropriate culture in the underlying problems of a modern economy too, because: "for causing an economic boom and we need not only good workers and docile instruments in the hands of others, but people

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<sup>16</sup> Idem, Trade's history, p. 232.

<sup>17</sup> Idem, Universal trade history in relation to economic history and cultural history of peoples, p.11.

<sup>18</sup> Idem, Economic power and political power, p.10.

<sup>19</sup> Ibidem, p. 38.

<sup>20</sup> Ibidem, p. 31-32.

<sup>21</sup> Idem, Greater Romania's economic policy, Professional Printing Ionescu C. Dimitrie, Bucharest, 1919, p. 37-38.

<sup>22</sup> Idem, Social security in modern states, Printing and graphic arts establishment, G. Ionescu, Bucharest, 1913, p. 158.

<sup>23</sup> Idem, Greater Romania's economic policy, p. 18.

<sup>24</sup> Ibidem, p. 20.

<sup>25</sup> Ibidem.

<sup>26</sup> Ibidem.

<sup>27</sup> Ibidem, p. 21.

<sup>28</sup> Idem, Guidance on economic and financial policy of Romania, p. 32.

<sup>29</sup> Ibidem.

with higher qualifications, broad-minded and able to design and accomplish large enterprises that bring effective and lasting boom economy”<sup>30</sup>.

Thus, "the special culture, deep knowledge in any branch of research is designed to spread in wider circles"<sup>31</sup> by those people involved who: "Armed with accurate research methods - they make - significant personal contribution for they are striking with real daily problems"<sup>32</sup>, which implies a serious economic knowledge, to address effectively all the economic problems facing them.

In this way, expansion of economic culture both vertically and horizontally, determines the economic behavior of all members of society, constitutes a basic component of modern economic civilization, which requires a complex theoretical and practical "able to exploit science and technology requirements and even to enrich and confirm that the energy of a people who do not live alone in the world "can only use the most advanced weather technology"<sup>33</sup>.

We conclude that research in multiple aspects of the role of (economic) culture, the determinism of economic life, enabled I.N. Angelescu to formulate some objective considerations about the state's mission at all levels of education, training and culture of the whole population.

That is why "Teacher I.N. Angelescu's opinions about the role of culture in conducting economic and social life form a complex and realistic design ideas and theses with a perennial indisputable value, which may be an opportunity for reflection and inspiration in view of present circumstances, concerning the modeling of the Romanian economy in accordance with the requirements of modern market economy"<sup>34</sup>.

They also highlighted the indissoluble link that must exist between economic theory and practice, helping to formulate the relevant value judgments.

We emphasize that attention and bottom interest of Professor I.N. Angelescu for culture and economy are, to a considerable extent, the result of his intense concern on this land, which led to domestic and international affirmation of his point of view that captures the dynamic essence of a broader process in terms of connections and relevant scientific and multidisciplinary, as phenomena which are emphasized and amplified in the interwar years, being in the Romanian economy perimeter a real compass of our advance towards prosperity.

Today his opinions became even more relevant because: "We live in an age when established schemes unravel and humanity seeks a more complex and capacious about itself. We must do so in this new image we appear as we were in reality "<sup>35</sup>.

## **Conclusion:**

In this context, we fully concur the concept of teacher Angelescu that grant culture a key role in building a modern type of economic civilization capable of producing a sound recovery and superior material and human belonging Romanian specific , propelled us to success in the diverse but irregular landscape of the contemporary world.

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<sup>30</sup> Idem, Universal trade history in relation to economic history and history of folk culture, p. 5.

<sup>31</sup> Idem, Trade history, p. 231.

<sup>32</sup> Ibidem.

<sup>33</sup> Idem, Greater Romania's economic policy, p. 7.

<sup>34</sup> Mureșan Maria și Mureșan D., op. cit., p. 388.

<sup>35</sup> Zamfirescu D., History and Culture, Eminescu Publishing House, 1975, p. 8.

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