The role of the President in Romania’s contemporary political system

Romania’s contemporary political system is generally described as presidential, semi-presidential or mixed, combining features of both the presidential and parliamentary cabinet system. The President is an essential factor of the political system. However, the role is not on a level matching that fulfilled by the President of France under the Fifth Republic, for instance. The function of President is a relatively new component of the Romanian political system, having only come into being in 1974. When the foundations of a democratic system emerged after the collapse of communism, the President, appointed through general presidential elections, became one of its crucial elements. The personalities of successive heads of state, Ion Iliescu, Emil Constantinescu and Traian Băsescu, have had a great impact on positioning the President within the country’s political system.