

# A Tangle of Memory: The *Eternitate* Memorial Complex in Chişinău and History Politics in Moldova<sup>1</sup>

Alexandr Voronovici

*Abstract:* This article explores the role played by the *Eternitate* memorial complex, the central site for World War II commemoration in Chişinău, as a tool and site of history politics in the Republic of Moldova. It analyzes different facets of the history of the memorial complex, focusing in particular on the years after its renovation in 2006. The article traces the evolution of the site from a Soviet military glory complex to a more multi-layered and diverse commemorative space, which even includes monuments not related to World War II. It demonstrates how commemorations at the complex interact with the complexities of history politics in independent Moldova, as well as with the culturally diverse history of Chişinău and the site itself.

The *Eternitate* memorial complex is located in the center of the Moldovan capital of Chişinău. It is the central memorial dedicated to World War II in Moldova. Originally inaugurated in 1975 as a Great Patriotic War memorial, the complex was renovated in 2006 by the Communist government in power at the time. In the post-Soviet years and especially after the renovation, the memorial has incorporated other historical narratives, outside of the Great Patriotic War myth. The latter, however, also had a localized version. Thus, for instance, the memorial complex has monuments and plaques related to the 1992 Transnistrian conflict, and to non-Soviet participants and victims of World War

---

<sup>1</sup> This work was supported by the Russian Science Foundation under the grant 17-18-01589.