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## BOOK REVIEW: A SCIENTIFIC EVENT – ATTESTING THE AGRARIAN AND RURAL ECONOMY SCHOOL

Ion Bold, the author of the book *“Agrarian and Rural Economy School – An Essay on Its Evolution”*<sup>1</sup> is a well-known general agrarian economist, who has introduced us to the magic of emergence and evolution of the Rural and Agrarian Economy School.



Figure 1. Book cover: Agrarian and Rural Economy School – An Essay on Its Evolution

It is not within everybody’s reach to publish a volume each year, and always doubled by articles, studies, essays, prefaces to editions, a never-ending creation of erudition, like that under the sign of Ion Bold’s vocation.

Be it considered just an exercise in culture, a mixture of investigations, reflections, wording, this book shows that it belongs to a historian, as well as to an economist and sociologist, to a great thinker by so many pages with a first-rate content. It is amazing how he managed to integrate ideas and concepts – over such a long historical period, two centuries, managing to find out the red thread of a phenomenon – the Agrarian and Rural Economy School.

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<sup>1</sup> Școala de Economie agrară și rurală – Eseu asupra evoluției, Editura Academiei de Științe Economice, București, 2021

For such an undertaking, previous papers were necessary, an impressive documentary material had to be consulted<sup>2</sup>, the valuable ideas and concepts had to be selected in order to define the Agrarian and Rural Economy School, in the context of the historical, social, economic and cultural evolution, of the scientific thinking, into an integrative vision.

A follower of consolidated values, university professor, Ph. D. engineer Ion Bold chose a less used type of presentation – that of three dimensions projected and evaluated against the background of continuous development, in a consolidated and original synthesis.

The crystallization of an objective sense of ideas and documents certifies the emergence of the Agrarian and Rural Economy School in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, which proved to be an economic and socio-cultural current for solving up the agrarian issues, expressed by ideas, theses, concepts, thus being inscribed in the economic, sociological and geographical gallery, with which it has co-existed in harmony and interdependence.

This historical fact is accredited in the first part of the essay, “*The Prologue*”, which had a double significance – it created a current for the affirmation at multiple levels of the actions for the knowledge and solving of the agrarian issues and at the same time it created a basis for the affirmation of the agrarian and rural economy sciences.

The second part, “*The defining confluences of the agrarian and rural economy*”, presents the ideas and concepts that proved their value – corresponding to the different stages of historical, social and economic development – in the process of agrarian economy and rural economy becoming a science.

The third part, “*From the history of the agrarian and rural economy school evolution*”, summarizes the defining aspects of the continuity of action, effect of the agrarian relations between humans and the land where they live, generating new agrarian structures within the Romanian agrarian phenomenon. In the economic and technical development context, the evolution of the economic agrarian thinking is highlighted, which became essential for the agrarian policy.

The fourth part, “*Post scriptum*”, is devoted to a brief reflection of the author on the vocation and affective capacity for the agrarian and rural economy, as a revealing part of attesting the existence of the Agrarian and Rural Economy School, the author being deeply attached to the historical past, but also to the present realities for the solving of which he was a militant.

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<sup>2</sup> Două secole de economie rurală și agrară, – Portrete și semnificații, Editura Mitron, Timișoara, 2004; Eseuri, Editura Terra Nostra, Iași, 2010; Economişti agrari și statisticieni – Colecția Dicționare, 2011, București, Editura Ceres; Oameni de seamă – Economişti – Colecția Reconstituirii, Academia Oamenilor de Știință din România, Editura Mica Valahie, București, 2013; Gheorghe Ionescu Șișești – Monografie, Editura Pim, Iași, 2020.

Our literature comprises remarkable studies on the agrarian issues, but so far there has been no complete and systemic research, such as this study. In a way, we could ask ourselves who else but Ion Bold has known better that no such synthesis could be reached before the whole documentary material had gone through various correlations and analyses.

*It is quite impressive to find out what this essay comprises and reveals, how much consistency, how much willingness to study and establish correlations to define the affirmation and continuity of the Agrarian and Rural Economy School for two centuries, which seem so special to me, by the 400 references from the vast investigated literature.*

In a state of admiration that this study has naturally produced to me, I continue to travel by thought in the historical atmosphere created by this essay, as a schoolteacher. I cannot ignore and not to highlight the formative character of the agrarian economic thinking, which I consider that it is impossible not to find an echo in the new generation, as well as its inherent or possible consequences.

A man of science and humanist, Ion Bold built his work combining the essay technique targeting comprehensive values of authors and works into an interdisciplinary approach integrated into a unitary vision, through a prestigious handling of words.

It is a useful book for specialists, researchers, students, as well as for the large audience, as the synthesized evolution does not mean a contemplation of reality, but a way of affirming conceptual values, openings into various and legitimate directions of a cultural and economic tradition that it incorporates by renewing it.

Thus, these will discover a multiple understanding of the various facets of today's agrarian economy thinking, with perspectives towards the past and openings to the future, as the agrarian and rural economy is organically integrated into the general progress of the Romanian society.