

## THE WOUNDS OF INDIVIDUATION.

### EDUCATION AND COLLAPSE

[RĂNILE INDIVIDUAȚIEI. EDUCAȚIE ȘI PRĂBUȘIRE]

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### BOOK REVIEW

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The volume “*The Wounds of Individuation. Education and Collapse*”, Mr. **Pompiliu ALEXANDRU**, Assoc. Professor at the Faculty of Political Sciences, Letters and Communication, Valahia University in Târgoviște, attempts to address, in a critical, analytical, and sometimes pessimistic manner, a multitude of factors that affect education in Romania. The author explores especially the vulnerabilities of the education system, highlighting the complexity of current challenges. In a global society marked by rapid changes, contemporary education must respond to imperatives such as digitization, social equity, and curriculum restructuring. According to the author, solving those issues requires a holistic approach and close collaboration between schools and society, with the ultimate goal of creating a high-performing system anchored in authentic values.

In this sense, the author’s concerns, grouped into the *28 chapters* of the volume, serve as a catalyst for reflection and dialogue in the search for answers that take into account all the disruptive factors that influence the educational process. Thus, the author expects all educational actors to be aware of those issues, which are discussed in detail, but above all, to come up with viable solutions that should lead to positive changes in current education.

The book captures in 160 pages, with great precision, various aspects and exciting topics related to: the art of learning, intellectual plagiarism, *allergy* to books or reading, the value of books, the coordinates of human life and its actual rhythm, the decline of thinking and the lightness of mind, intelligence and stupidity, the relationship between penalty and embarrassment, the influence of politics in education - which, in the author’s opinion, generates true *educational crimes*, the crime of opinion, the lack of aspirations of the young

generation (*Generation Z*), the dominance of evil in everyday life, the limitations of school textbooks available on the educational market, the relationship between teacher and student, optimism, pessimism, realism - as manifest or inner human attitudes, the meaning or purpose of life, the importance of being polite, the poor quality of education, the educational changes seen as failed pedagogical experiments, the degradation of the Romanian language, and so on - all of them analyzed at both levels (pre-university and university).

But the author's powerful cry of despair must be understood beyond the words - it targets one of the factors that influence (never positively) current education: "... *the politician is the murderer of this world. Most wars are not caused by the Church, nor by rebellious individuals, nor by groups of individuals. The wars start due to politicians!*" In this respect, it is clear that attention is drawn to the responsibility that the great leaders and rulers of our world bear in making decisions that affect current education. This is where we begin any discussion of ethics, morality, and civic responsibility in society, especially by constantly arguing that education plays an essential role in shaping responsible citizens with discernment and a high capacity for critical analysis, capable of making informed decisions.

In "*The Wounds of Individuation. Education and Collapse*", Mr. **Pompiliu ALEXANDRU** draws attention to a rich tapestry of areas - everyday life, literature, history, arts etc. - to provide a concrete scaffolding for his theoretical reflections. Those carefully curated examples - likely only a fraction of the author's extensive repertoire - are designed to foster deep resonance with the reader's own experiences. While many of those illustrations are painted in somber tones, they are not intended to portray education in a purely negative light. Even when referencing the unsettling power dynamics in the fabulous Eugen Ionesco's *The Lesson*, where pedagogy devolves into manipulation and fear, the book ultimately pivots toward *hope*. The concluding reflection written in "*The Last of the Mohicans*" serves as an optimistic coda, suggesting that a vanguard coming from the young generation, dedicated to spiritual values, remains capable of catalyzing a meaningful transformation within the current educational system.

In conclusion, "*The Wounds of Individuation. Education and Collapse*", is not only an invitation to critical reflection but also an indispensable analytical tool for all educational actors, and not only. Through its rigorous approach, the volume becomes an important resource for various audiences - starting from students at the beginning of their teaching careers, continuing with teachers from all levels of education, to educational managers, curriculum experts, and policy makers - all of them concerned with what is happening at this point in Romanian education.