



GHEORGHE DOLGU, AN EXCEPTIONAL CAREER



In 2001, Professor Constantin Florescu, former dean and founder of the marketing school in the Faculty of Commerce, stated that: “The introduction of marketing as academic discipline [in 1971] and, along with it, the settlement of a separate department were possible also due to the changes in the leadership of ASE, the new rector, Professor Gheorghe Dolgu, proving to be a very receptive person with a broader view”. Professor Gheorghe Dolgu was rector of The Bucharest Academy of Economic Studies (ASE) during two mandates, until 1980. He is also the “godfather” of the economic specialization in food stuffs and tourism services in 1977, the name of the discipline being set in a process of negotiations conducted by Prof. Gheorghe Dolgu, with the Ministry. He was later assigned a high position in diplomacy and since 1989 he has been a member of the National Securities Commission (CNVM). Over the last three decades of the twentieth century, Professor Gheorghe Dolgu was a member of the International Business and Economics Department, and taught Foreign Trade, a discipline previously taught within the Faculty of Commerce. He is also a master of writing. Over the years, Professor Dolgu has received a series of awards and accolades, the most important of them being the following: the “Cross of Merit” German Order (1969); “PS Aurelian” Award of the Academy (1976); “Opera Omnia” Diploma of ASE for research (2000); National Order “Faithful Service” with the rank of Knight, given by presidential decree (2003); “Virgil Madgearu” Diploma with golden medal, conferred by the ASE Senate (2009). (Nicolae Lupu)

Gheorghe Dolgu is a famous personality in the Romanian and international academic and professional environment. He had an outstanding career as a renowned professor, and a great diplomat, scientist and expert in economic and financial matters. Holder of prizes and distinctions awarded by major national and international for a, honoured by the Romanian Academy, celebrated by The Bucharest Academy of Economic Studies, where he conducted most of his long and prodigious activity, Gheorghe Dolgu is an accomplished intellectual.

*Professor **Gheorghe Dolgu** was born in Bucharest on April 2, 1929. He attended the “Gheorghe Filipescu” Military High School at the “Dealul Monastery” and in 1952 graduated from the Faculty of General Economics, The Bucharest Academy of Economic*

Studies, with diploma of merit. In 1972, Gheorghe Dolgu obtained his PhD in Economics, with a thesis on arming economy.

Teaching career in economic education: Assistant and Lecturer at The Bucharest Academy of Economic Studies and the University of Bucharest (1952-1960); Associate Professor, the University of Bucharest (1960-1971) and then The Bucharest Academy of Economic Studies; Professor, at The Bucharest Academy of Economic Studies in (1972-1999); Consulting Professor, The Bucharest Academy of Economic Studies in (since 1999).

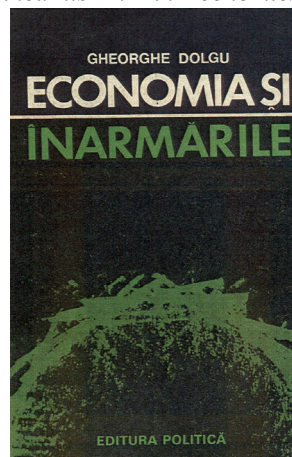
Scientific research: Head of Division in the Institute for Economic Research of the Romanian Academy (1960-1964); Senior scientific researcher in the National Institute of Economic Research (since 1990).

Managerial career: Deputy Editor (1963-1968) and Editor-in-chief of the "Economic Life" journal (1968-1973); Rector of the Bucharest Academy of Economic Studies (1971-1976 and 1976-1980); Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1980-1984) and UN Ambassador (1984-1986).

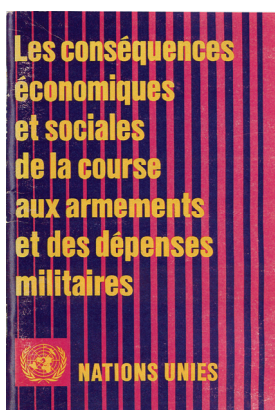
Diplomatic career: Deputy Head of the Romanian delegation at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in Santiago de Chile (1972), Nairobi and Kenya (1976), Belgrade (1984), Geneva (1988); Consultant Expert of the UN Secretary General (1970-1971, 1976-1977 and 1980); Permanent Representative of Romania (ambassador) at UN Office and in other international organizations based in Geneva, the GATT and the Conference on Disarmament (1986-1990); Ambassador to Bern, Switzerland; Romanian representative in the Intergovernmental Group of Experts for studying the possibilities and forms of multilateral economic cooperation in the post Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CAER) space (1990-1991).

At present, Gheorghe Dolgu is Consulting Professor at The Bucharest Academy of Economic Studies and associated principal scientist at the National Institute of Economic Research.

I had the opportunity to personally know Gheorghe Dolgu since my college years. It was a great chance for me – as well as for my colleagues, students of the Faculty of Foreign Trade Studies. First, because I met Mr. Dolgu, professor of world economy, at the time when I was looking for a model in a world marked by a great need for powerful intellectual personalities. Then, because the same Professor – famous for his open approach to science and life, a fluent foreign language speaker and a charismatic person – became the rector of our university, The Bucharest Academy of Economic Studies (ASE). For many of us, ASE



The scientific paper that appeared in the Political Publishing House and for which Professor Gh. Dolgu received "PS Aurelian" Academy's Prize in 1976



The study conducted by the expert consulting group appointed by UN Secretary General and chaired by Professor Gh. Dolgu (1976-1977); in 1978, the book appeared in English, French, Russian, Spanish, Chinese, Arabic, and also in Romanian – as a UN document

meant Gheorghe Dolgu. For me, in particular, the chance was even greater: Professor Dolgu became my PhD coordinator and a remarkable mentor for those years of my commitment to teaching and to a research career.

Professor Dolgu’s discourse was open and creative, calling for understanding and dialogue. His lectures were special intellectual *happenings* that stimulated students to take active part in debates and discussions for reasons going far beyond a simple school approach. The international perspective on the subjects presented, the Professor’s ability to freely communicate in foreign languages and the use of valuable scientific sources represented essential components of his courses.

What did I learn from my teacher? First of all, I learnt about the importance of intellectual discipline. “One should put what is important before what is urgent” was one of his favourite sayings, meaning that we should have a strict work schedule, set clear objectives and make efforts to achieve them, without dispelling ourselves in less important activities, without perspective or continuity. We, the new intellectuals, had to live actively, not just wait to add years to our lives. This respect for discipline and self-responsibility bore the imprint of a rigorous educational system that reflected itself in his family and school life (the Military School at the “Dealu Monastery” has been, as he mentions in his memories, a sort of personal *Arcadia*), but it was also the mark of an exceptional intellectual and volitional character. Secondly, I learnt how important it is to adhere to a clear set of values, to continuously learn from books, but also from others. A valuable man promotes values. Let us think, for example, of the devotion with which Gheorghe Dolgu has been working for many years in order to make known, at national level, the work of Nicholas Georgescu-Roegen, one of his high school fellows, who became “a brilliant epistemologist”. Or let us think of his experience with the United Nations system. “If I refer to my experience in the UN – Gheorghe Dolgu confessed – I may say that I met people with different horizons and interesting intellectual abilities, a true laboratory of ideas. It is very important if you have the chance to develop yourself in such an intellectual environment”.

Gheorghe Dolgu was **rector of ASE** during the period 1971-1980, a time of hope (1968) and questions (1971) for the younger generation. Achieving this position after being chief-editor of the “Economic Life” journal, our rector brought a new spirit in the university life. “Economic Life” was a meeting place for Romanian teachers and researchers with economists from abroad; it was a journal that made the transition/shift to that highly-desired and proclaimed openness to the world. It was a place where Nobel laureates and foreign economists were invited, where debates on international economy, growth and economy-society relation took place.



With Professor Francois Perroux, who was visiting The Bucharest Academy of Economic Studies for signing a cooperation agreement



Along with the present rector of the ASE, Professor Ion Gh. Roşca, in front of the portrait from Rectors’ Gallery – author Nicolae Aurel Alexi (2008)

I had a lot to learn from the managerial experience of my PhD coordinator; for example, I learnt about the importance of teamwork, of enhancing the potential of the university human resources. What is the secret regarding teamwork? “For everybody to understand that he has to exploit his best abilities. We are not all endowed with the same qualities; each individual is a performer in a given field of activity. I tried, as far as I could, to determine each of my colleagues I was collaborating with, in the management team, to do what they knew best. So, I think, I have really formed teams”. This is an assessment made by the Professor over the years, which has full coverage in the reality of ASE management at the time.

Gheorghe Dolgu was, and remains up to this day, a **researcher**, not an exclusively library one, but a researcher engaged in the great debates of the time. His contributions to the field of economic sciences are well known and recognized (among other things, I would mention his position as honorary member of the Romanian Academy).

Professor Dolgu's contributions to the scientific research:

- **World economy** – co-author of the “World Economy” (1989), Didactic and Pedagogic Publishing House, as well as his research concerning the economy of arming / disarming, reflected in his work (doctoral thesis, “Economics and arming”) and the materials published by UN (“Les consequences économiques et sociales de la cour aux armements et des dépenses militaires”);
- **Economic doctrines** – the national-global economy ratio, a theme dealt with, among others, in the collective volume “Typology of national economies”; his direct involvement in editing Nicholas Georgescu-Roegen’s work in Romanian (Nicholas Georgescu-Roegen, “Man and work” and emphasizing “Georgescu-Roegen’s contribution to the field as the creator of a new paradigm in Economics”, 2006);
- **Transition to market economy and integration of Romania** in the European structures – he has contributed to the elaboration of the “Draft strategy regarding Romania’s transition to a market economy”, as well as to the “Snagov 1” (1995) and “Snagov 2” (2000) projects, aimed to prepare the accession of Romania to EU;
- **Financial markets and economic crisis** – “Crisis. Finance. Theories. Selected studies”, Romanian Centre for Comparative and Consensus Economics, 2009.

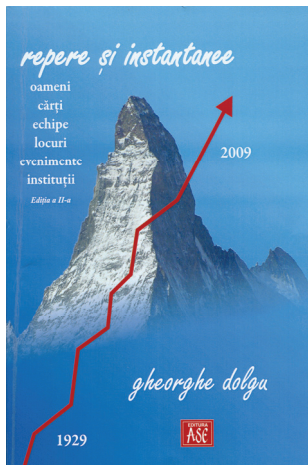
He believes that without theory one can not be a good economist, and without economic culture and without knowledge about economic doctrines and their development one can not create a sustainable work. At the same time, a researcher in Economics must have the appropriate tools to investigate reality, to undertake rigorous analyses, including the use of statistical or mathematical methods, but, above all, should be able to correctly interpret economic data and facts, to propose solutions and to be – as Nicolae Titulescu said – “an idealistic creator”. In this context, I would like to present two proofs of his research excellence.

In what concerns global economy, one of the investigation lines followed by Gheorghe Dolgu was focused on researching the economic aspects of the military effort. His work “Economy and arming” was awarded the “PS Aurelian” prize in Economics of the Romanian Academy. Gheorghe Dolgu later developed this point within the United Nations, as an expert consultant of the UN Secretary General, when appointed by the latter chairman of the experts’ panel that had to develop the study on “Economic and social consequences of the arms race and military expenditures”. Upon recommendation of the UN General Assembly, the report was published in New York in all six official UN languages; it was also published in Romanian.

In elaborating “Draft strategy regarding Romania’s transition to a market economy” and “Snagov 1” (1995) and “Snagov 2” (2000) projects aimed at preparing the accession of Romania to the European Union, Professor Gheorghe Dolgu had one of the most important individual contributions, materialized in significant analyses and suggestions in order to achieve a functional and articulated market economy in Romania.



The crisis – a burning topic also on the agenda of the latest volume of studies signed by Gh. Dolgu, appeared under the aegis of the Romanian Centre for Comparative Economics and Consensus of the Romanian Academy



One of the gifts that Professor Gh. Dolgu has made at his recent birthday anniversary – a comprehensive book-album, published in “Great personalities of ASE” series; second edition was completed with presentation of the anniversary celebrating events.

A major lesson deriving from his research activity is his realistic view and avoidance of extremes in dealing with economy and economic policies. Referring to the current financial problems, Gheorghe Dolgu points out in his volume “Crisis. Finance. Theories. Selected studies”, 2009: “... if it is true that the faith in the market omnipotence has led to numerous and serious excesses, which require correcting, if re-balancing between state and market is necessary, we should know that there is the risk of making excesses in the opposite direction and therefore we should try to stay away from them”.

Professor Dolgu’s reflections on the current crisis constitute what I would call an intellectual portrait of the author: a great concern for the main problems of the present society, realistic and actual positioning, accuracy and discretion in approaching various points of general interest, and an elegant style. He did not wait for the crisis to come so that he can ask the fundamental current questions and he does not appear in front just because the crisis. He asks questions without claiming to know all the answers. He helps maintain the waking state.

Through his personality and his whole career, Gheorghe Dolgu falls into that category of people who marked the time and destinies of others: a man of the citadel. His generosity, his selfless assistance and friendship shown to disciples and fellows are a mark of his superior intelligence as well as a condition of intellectual apostolate.

Professor Ioan Popa, Ph.D *

** The author of the article responded with solicitude to our invitation. Born in Ocna Mureș, Alba County, Professor Ioan Popa is licensed in Foreign Trade and Law Faculties He attended specialization courses in Geneva and Tokyo. He holds a PhD in Economics since in 1981. A survey conducted among students who attended the Stock Exchange course in one of the specializations of the Faculty of Commerce, has placed him among the best teachers. He is always up-to-date with the international economic news; he is not only a charming person, but also an impressive one. After the (re)establishment of the International Business and Economics Faculty (REI) in 1991, he was elected Dean and held this position continuously until 2004. The prohibition stipulated in the Law regarding the Statute of the teaching staff prevented him from being a candidate for a new mandate. In the years 2004-2005 he was deputy dean, and since 2008 he is the head of the International Business and Economics Department, a position that he had previously held in 1990-1991. He is and has been visiting professor at renowned universities in France, Poland and Luxembourg. He is director of International Business and Economics Research Centre (accredited by the National Council of Scientific Research in Higher Education – NURC), as well as the co-ordinator of the editorial board of “The Romanian Economic Journal”. Since 2004, Professor Ioan Popa is Chairman of the International Economics and Business Commission for awarding scientific titles within the National Council for Attestation of University Titles, Diplomas and Certificates. He is also a PhD coordinator. As director, coordinator and member of numerous research projects, he was awarded “Opera Omnia” Diploma for research by ASE Bucharest in 2005.*