

## Pierre Drieu la Rochelle, an Intellectual Facing History

Serenela GHÎȚEANU

**Abstract.** This article aims to analyze the reasons leading to French writer Pierre Drieu la Rochelle's engagement with the French Popular Party, followed by his collaborationism during the Nazi Occupation. To a melancholic (i.e. pathological) temperament and an "Oedipal" family environment are added his participation in the First World War, an experience exalted by the writer and depicted in several of his works as "transfigurative", and the spirit of the age, marked by the rise of far-right regimes during the interwar period. A visit to Berlin in 1934 served as a turning point, catalyzing his firm political stance as he became the ideologue of Jacques Doriot's party. The fascist imaginary became Drieu's obsessive personal imaginary. In Julien Benda's terms, Drieu cultivated a "political passion". Drieu's fusion with an irrationalistic political ideal ultimately led to his suicide following the end of the Second World War. History, then, can be read as if in a mirror, reflected within the writer's highly autobiographical work.

**Keywords:** French writer, political engagement, fascist imaginary, interwar period, identity, autobiography, war.