

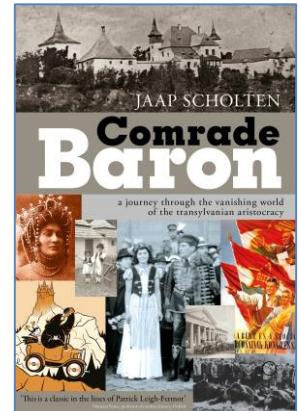
Comrade Baron

A journey through the vanishing world of the Transylvanian aristocracy

By Jaap Scholten

NEW DELUXE HARDBACK EDITION, WITH PREFACE BY BRYAN CARTLEDGE

previously, British Ambassador to Hungary.



An extraordinary, passionate and important work, **Comrade Baron** is “*in part, an oral history of a group we know little about, in part the account of a journey through one of the most beautiful and mysterious regions of Europe and in part a record of a Dutchman’s impressions on finding himself in an extraordinary milieu in the company of some exceptional families.*”

In the darkness of the early morning of 3 March 1949, practically all the Transylvanian aristocracy were arrested in their beds and loaded onto trucks. That same day the Romanian Workers’ Party was pleased to announce the successful deportation and dispossession of all large landowners. Communism demanded the destruction of these ultimate class enemies. Taken away with just the clothes they stood up in, what happened to these once mighty families? Their stories, as told first-hand in this fascinating and enlightening book, are ones of hardship and fear but also of determination, solidarity, family tradition, resilience and indomitable spirit...



Jaap Scholten first heard about the nocturnal mass deportation of the Transylvanian nobility in 2006. Fascinated by their plight, he determined to track down as many of the older members of the former aristocracy as he could, recording their stories before they were lost forever. His journey took him across Transylvania (a magical land that comes to vivid life through descriptions in the book), to apartment blocks, slums and ruined castles, and brought him face-to-face with a group of rare and fascinating families with an extraordinary tale to tell.

Supported by a selection of black and white photographs and told through poignant and illuminating first-hand conversations, **Comrade Baron** is their story - from the days that preceded communism to after the communists came to power and through to the modern day.

To order a copy of Comrade Baron, visit:

<https://www.amazon.com/Comrade-Baron-Vanishing-Transylvanian-Aristocracy/dp/1943596026>