

# Romania Opening All of the Doors: A Travelogue of the Transition

*James K. McCollum*

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## ROMANIA

### Opening All of the Doors

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**James K. McCollum : Romania Opening All of the Doors: A Travelogue of the Transition** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Romania Opening All of the Doors: A Travelogue of the Transition:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A personalized look at life after communismBy A Customer"Opening All of the Doors" works on two or three levels. I thought the most interesting part was the sense of getting to know people that the author met in Romania; not just the important and powerful people, but also the common every day people.It was interesting to find out what they think -- and sometimes HOW they think.Some of

the stories about life under an insane communist dictator are chilling, especially when they pop up unexpectedly among the normal daily events. I think a reader would be surprised at the hospitality extended to an American scholar and his wife by the Romanian people. The biggest thing I got from this book, however, is an awareness of how communism warped the values and the mindset of the people. Imagine every business, every office and every classroom run with the efficiency and courtesy of the DMV. While people adapted to and survived it, you get the impression that some scars are buried deep inside the national psyche. It's a pretty interesting read, bouncing back and forth between travelogue, and political / business / social observer.

Exhilarating adventure for an American professor to go to a "worst case" former communist country to live for almost a year to teach and research. Upon learning the problems Romania faced, to advise and consult with the people and to devise ways to help them through the transition, while enjoying the country and its people.

About the Author James K. McCollum is now Professor Emeritus at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. He was a full professor at the university, having taught in the Alabama system for 19 years. His BS degree is from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, NY and his Ph.D. is from Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA. Before becoming an academic, Dr. McCollum served as an officer in the U.S. Army for 20 years, with two tours of duty in the Republic of Vietnam and two tours of duty in Germany. He has published three books prior to this one, plus more than fifty journal articles. Dr. McCollum has been a visiting professor to the Lucian Blaga University in Sibiu, Romania, visiting professor in the University of Maryland European Program, and visiting professor to the American University in Bulgaria, Blouevgrad, Bulgaria. He has been nominated for another Fulbright Scholarship to Romania for Fall, 2003. His area of expertise is Business Management.