

DRACULA

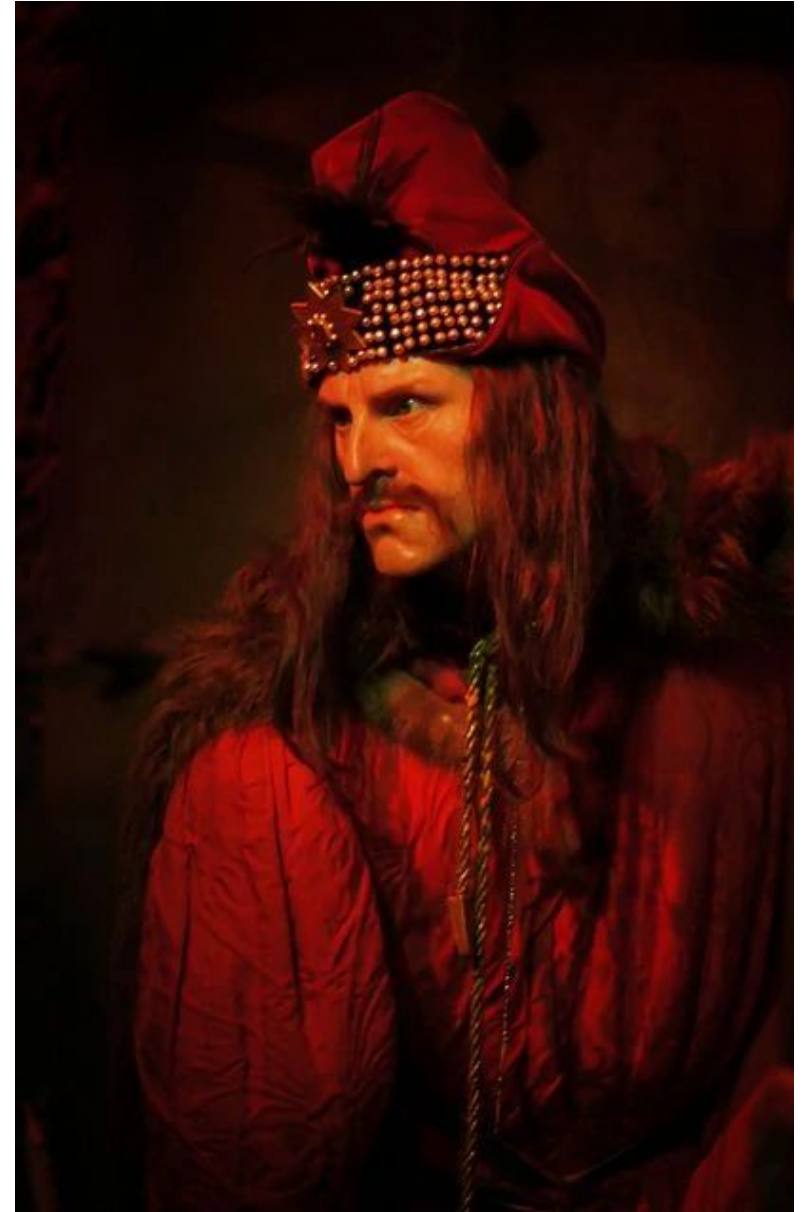
Vlad III, known as Vlad The Impaler or Vlad Dracula was Viovode of Wallachia three times between 1448 and his death. He is often considered one of the most important rulers in Wallachian history and a national hero of Romania.



A presentation by Erasmia Amariotaki

ABOUT HIS FAMILY

- He was the second son of Vlad Dracul, who became the ruler of Wallachia in 1436. Vlad and his younger brother, Radu, were held as hostages in the Ottoman Empire in 1442 to secure their father's loyalty. Vlad's father and eldest brother, Mircea were murdered after John Hunyadi, regent-governor of Hungary, invaded Wallachia in 1447.



ABOUT HIS NAME

■ The expression Dracula, which is now primarily known as the name of a fictional vampire, was for centuries known as the sobriquet of Vlad III. Stories about him referred to him as Dracula, Dracuglia and Drakula already in the 15th century. He himself signed his two letters as "Dragulya" or "Drakulya" in the late 1470s. His name had its origin in the sobriquet of his father, Vlad Dracul which means "Vlad the Dragon" in medieval Romanian, who received it after he became a member of the Order of the Dragon. Vlad III is known as *Vlad Țepeș* (or Vlad the Impaler) in Romanian historiography. This sobriquet is connected to the impalement that was his favourite method of execution. The Ottoman writer Tursun Beg referred to him as *Kazıklı Voyvoda* (Impaler Lord) around 1500.



HIS EARLY LIFE

- Vlad was the second by blood son of Vlad II Dracul, who was not a son by blood of Mircea I of Wallachia. As he was old enough to be a candidate to the throne of Wallachia in 1448, his time of birth would have been between 1428 and 1431. Vlad was probably born after his father moved to Transylvania in 1429. Historian Radu Florescu writes that Vlad was born in the Transylvanian Saxon town where his father lived in a three storey stone house from 1431 to 1435. Historians of today identify Vlad's mother either as a daughter or a kinswoman of Alexander I of Moldavia, or as his father's unknown first wife.



IN EXILE

- Vlad first defrayed in Edirne in the Ottoman Empire after his fall. Not long after, he moved to Moldavia, where Bogdan II (his father's brother-in-law and could be his maternal uncle) had ascended the throne with John Hunyadi's finance in the autumn of 1449. In October of 1451 after the murder of Bogdan by Peter III Aaron, Bogdan's son, Stephen, took off to Transylvania with Vlad to look for assistance from Hunyadi. However, in 20 November 1451 Hunyadi concluded armistice which lasted 3 years with the Ottoman Empire, acknowledging the Wallachian boyars' right to elect the ruler of Vladislav II if he passed away. Allegedly Vlad wanted to move to Brasov, but on February 6 1452 Hunyadi excluded the burghers to give shelter to him. Vlad then went back to Moldavia where Alexăndrel had verbose from position Peter Aaron. After that his life events remained a mystery.





THE FIRST RULE

- After the death of his father and elder brother, Vlad became a most likely ruler to Wallachia. In September of 1448 Vladislav II of Wallachia escorted John Hunyadi, who set up a campaign against the Ottoman Empire. In early October Vlad broke into Wallachia at the head of an Ottoman army after to granted the absence of his enemy. Between 17 and 18 of October the Ottomans defeated Hunyadi's army in the Battle of Kosovo. Vlad was ordered to go to the Ottoman Empire before the 7th of December 1448.
- *"We bring you news that [Nicholas Vízaknai] writes to us and asks us to be so kind as to come to him until [John Hunyadi] ... returns from the war. We are unable to do this because an emissary from Nicopolis came to us ... and said with great certainty that [Murad II had defeated Hunyadi]. ... If we come to [Vízaknai] now, the [Ottomans] could come and kill both you and us. Therefore, we ask you to have patience until we see what has happened to [Hunyadi]. ... If he returns from the war we will meet him and we will make peace with him. But if you will be our enemies now, and if something happens, ... you will have to answer for it before God"*
- — Vlad's letter to the councillors of Braşov

THE SECOND RULE

- The occurrence and the date of Vlad's come back to Wallachia remain unknown up until now. He raided Wallachia with Hungarian assistance either in April, July or August 1456. Vladislav II lost his life whilst the raid was occurring. On September Vlad sent his first letter as voivode of Wallachia to the burghers of Braşov. In case of a raid in Transylvania by the Ottoman Empire Vlad guaranteed to protect them however, he also wanted their assistance if the Ottomans occupied Wallachia. Multiple sources recorded that hundreds or even thousands of people were executed at Vlad's order at the beginning of his reign. Between 1457 and 1461 The lists of the members of the princely council during Vlad's reign also show that only two of them were able to retain their positions. He also began a sweep out against the boyars who had participated in the murder of his father and elder brother.



THE THIRD RULE



- Matthias Corvinus knew that Vlad was the son of the king of Wallachia, but he did not supply him with military assistance to salvage his principality. Vlad lived in a house in Pest. When a group of soldiers broke into the house while chasing a thief who had tried to secrete there, Vlad had killed their commander because they had not asked for his permission before setting foot in his home. Vlad moved to Transylvania in June 1475. On 6 September 1476 Matthias Corvinus ordered the Transylvanian Saxons to support Báthory's planned invasion of Wallachia, also telling them Stephen of Moldavia would also attend the raid against Wallachia. Vlad informed the merchants of Braşov about his victory, urging them to come to Wallachia. On the 26th November he was crowned.

HIS DEATH



- The location of his burial is up until today unknown. As known from famous tradition, Vlad was buried in the Monastery of Snagov. However, in 1933 Dinu V. Rosetti with the excavations he carried showed that there was no tomb under the place that was said. Rosetti said: "Under the tombstone assigned to Vlad, there was no tomb. Only a lot of bones and jaws of horses." Vlad was most probably buried in the first church of the Comana Monastery said a Historian, which had been inveterated by Vlad and was near the battlefield where he was killed.
- **R.I.P** *he did not clutch the Gulag.*