



EDITORIAL

DIVERGENCES IN THE CONVERGENCE OF THE CONTEMPORARY GEOPOLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

Fundamental changes in the security environment and the dynamics of the major events in the global security plan show that the current model of organizing the world has reached a point where essentially it involves transformations. The transition from one model to another is done with great difficulty, while the reference interests of actors, be they state or non-state, are deeply divided.

Three hot spots on the world map, generated by the conflict in Ukraine, the Islamic State and the referendum held in Greece for accepting or not by the population of this country of austerity measures imposed by the Troika (IMF, European Central Bank and European Union), are signs of a shift to a possible new model for organizing the world. The great test of the current systemic model is given by its ability / inability to avoid violence as its worst: war.

Ukrainian crisis is a blatant denunciation of the systemic post-Cold War order. Russia, through the actions they carry out and by the means used, is turned on to change the current model of organization and management of the world and gain a privileged place within it. By annexing the Crimean Peninsula and the destabilization of eastern Ukraine, Russian Federation seeks not only to prevent EU and NATO orientation of this country, but, at the same time, it argues, builds and reinforces another geopolitical role, which would allow its forces design south to the Mediterranean and beyond.

Ukrainian crisis has reached today a highly sensitive point in which it is not excluded the possibility / probability of war between the players, but, at the same time, prospects are open for a peaceful settlement. If it ends by war, the historical reality is confirmed through the fact that in the Westphalian system the systemic order was always changed by war. If it ends peacefully, then we are dealing with a theoretical acquisition extremely important, namely that in the nuclear age, a rational management of systemic crises can avoid the hegemonic war meant to change the global order.

On the other hand, the perpetuation of a state of distrust and interfaith hatred in a complex geopolitical environment affected by numerous conflicts, Middle East, and the promotion of discretionary domestic policies by governments in Damascus and Baghdad have fueled tensions between different ethno-religious communities, tensions between Sunni and Shia manifested the most intense, with high impact at regional level. The intense unrest of recent years in Syria and Iraq has generated socio-political and security vacuums that constituted a fertile ground for the emergence and rapid development of Sunni jihadist militancy that found significant support in local communities, dominated by the hostile feelings addressed to power. The most notable case in this context is the emergence and evolution of the "Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant".

The rapid expansion of the area of action of the Islamic State in Iraq and Syrian territories was intensified by the high level of regional instability and the inability of the two nation-states to exercise control within their borders. By exploiting and exacerbating such conditions, the Islamic State was able to strengthen its military power to attract many followers and a large number of foreign fighters of different nationalities, taking over at the same time, huge financial and material resources enabling it to attack the challenged foundation of the global systemic order.

The Greek crisis contributes to weakening the architecture of the international financial system and to amplify the systemic problems of the contemporary world. Today one can no longer talk of a usual financial crisis, the kind of which Greece went through over its history after gaining independence from the Ottoman Empire in the first half of the nineteenth century. This crisis was exacerbated by the



decision of the leaders in Athens to appeal to a form of direct democracy by convening and holding a referendum but also by its results, which could throw the European Union in particular and the world in general, in an unprecedented situation if they do not try to find a solution acceptable to all parties.

Basically, the rejection by the Greek people of the austerity measures imposed by international lenders does not automatically mean a Greek exit from the European Union or the Euro zone, but certainly it requires the global financial system restructure the sovereign debt of states and their burden sharing among creditors and borrowers. Otherwise, Pandora's box being opened, the financial system will be forced to turn not to collapse.

Concluding, dramatic events such as those set out in this editorial, show us that we are dealing with a highly uncertain evolution of the system, the existing global order is strongly contested and the important actors on international relations scene wish to change it.

Colonel lecturer Alexandru STOICA, PhD

