

FORCES AND TRENDS INFLUENCING TODAY'S WORLD CHANGES

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Today's world finds itself in an ongoing globalization process developed in a fast tempo. The growing reaction speed to the national and international stimuli is the result of the more and more tight connections between the regional and global economic systems as well as that of the replacement of the nuclear era (characteristic to the advanced stage of the industrial society) with the informational era (characteristic to the post-industrial society). Such a trend

generates essential changes concerning the understanding of the national and international security status by the political leaders, the population and the media from different countries in the world.

Security is a status. For maintaining it within proper parameters, the states use the power tools, which are handy, and when crisis situations occur these tools are represented by the warfare or the military conflict.

1. DEFINITION OF FORCES AND TRENDS WITHIN THE SECURITY ENVIRONMENT

Due to the ongoing and quick changes within the international strategic environment, it is necessary to identify the factors that produce these changes and to find out which is their direction and evolution, in other words, we have to know the forces taking action in the strategic environment and to identify their evolutionary trends.

The forces that take action within the international environment are factors which influence the shaping and exerting of power, so as to mould security environment, as well as the ability, of the states to attain the objectives that come from their national interests. The states respond to the risks and challenges or on a case by case basis to the threats that appear in the strategic environment, amplifying or reducing the action of some of the instruments of national power these states possess.

The trends appeared in the strategic environment represent the directions that the action of the forces give to the security within a certain period of time. They prefigure the

evolution in time, of the processes developing within the security strategic environment. Based on the analysis of the force evolution trends within the security environment, prognosis and strategic scenarios are elaborated. All these are useful to the political, political-military and military leadership of the states in order to ground the security and military strategies. Based on the same analysis, the international agencies, other non-state actors elaborate (build) their own policies and strategies, in the long, medium and short term.

These forces and trends taking action in the global society have a growing influence on the security and welfare of the nations. The growing interdependency between actors that take action in the international arena – states and non-states for example – may be considered as one of the most important trends appeared nowadays¹.

2. THE CHARACTER OF THE PRESENT SECURITY ENVIRONMENT

The changes occurred on the international arena, and the establishing of the dialogue as main element in solving critical and conflict situations outline the fact that because of the efforts of the international community and the involvement of the security agencies in crisis management, the risk of a threat with a military major confrontation will continue to diminish in a significant way. This represents a direct influence on the process of implementing the projects and programs that have been initiated by the international community to develop democracy, enhance the confidence and cooperation among states so as to build a new kind of stability and security.

The European security environment, complex and dynamic, is developed among the assertion of the European Defence Identity – promoted by EU, the aspirations and expectations of the countries which, are not yet NATO members, and the more and more obvious tendencies of some regional powers to re-build their spheres of influence.

The evolution of the latest events in central and south-eastern Europe has been marked by economic and social difficulties, characteristic to the transition period. Together with the political instability and lack of a firm reaction in de-tensioning the destabilizing situations they determined conflict situations developed sometimes into open conflicts having major implications on an entire area or region. Based, most of the time, on the general dissatisfaction generated by lack of economic performance and appropriate social protection measures, religious intolerance, ultra-nationalist

manifestations, secessionist attitudes, conflicts, as well as international terrorism, organized crime and corruption complete and diversify the range of threats and risks addressed to global and regional security and stability.

Situated at the crossroads of geographic areas having different social-political, economical, cultural, religious and historical characteristics, Romania represents a territory of convergence and interferences for the interests of the regional leaders. Romania maintains and develops cooperation and good neighborly relationships with the neighboring countries so in the present circumstances and in the near future there is no military threat from their part. Due to the fact that Poland, Tchech Republic and mostly Hungary are new NATO members, Romania has become a direct neighbor to the North Atlantic Alliance, which constitutes in itself a partial security guarantee. It is predictable that in the present international and regional circumstances, the Russian Federation as well as NATO would avoid a direct neighboring in the East of Europe, preferring to maintain between them a so-called "buffer-zone". In such case, not having a common border with the Russian Federation, Romania has real chances to be accepted as a NATO member.

At present, there are no threats and risks of a direct military aggression against Romania².

The only risk of such nature would be represented by the ex-Yougoslav area, which continues to be the main focal point for open conflicts in Romania's proximity.

3. FORCES AND TRENDS ACTING IN THE SECURITY ENVIRONMENT

The dynamics of the processes which take place on the international arena, which configure the international security, is due to the multitude and diversity of the forces taking action within these processes. The strategic security environment is significantly changed and continues to change. We live dynamic times, when changes occur very

fast. There are two key factors representing the coordinating essential vectors of the change: globalization and technological development.

Globalization of the market economies and the permanent need of prosperity, more than ever, set relations among nations. The interests and benefits of this phenomenon

concern the economic development, the increase of personal freedom, democratization, improvement of education, human rights, possibility of improving the quality of life and welfare. Besides the above-mentioned advantages, globalization also implies certain risks.

Among these we could mention the common vulnerability concerning the interruption of access to resources and markets. Such a break off can have a negative impact on the world economy or it could produce regional instability.

Despite the improvement of protection measures, a larger access to computer systems may give the opportunity to a potential enemy / hostile force to disrupt the flow of vital information.

In such case, we can easily imagine, for example, the chaos produced as a result of an attack against the computer network used by banks.

Globalization may also give certain hopes, which, unfulfilled produce tensions among those who get what they wished for and those who don't. This way, such situations may be "exploited" by demagogues, nationalists, religious and ethnic extremists or criminals who will try to take advantage of this situation in order to obtain power and welfare.

The fast progress within the process of technological development determines changes in the security environment.

The technological progress in the communication, computer and transportation systems, for example, have dramatic effects on governments, on people's every day lives and, of course, on operations which must be taken into account by military bodies.

The role, performances and the effect of the CNN TV channel are well known, because of the technology, although the development of high-tech is far from stopping here.

Let's just think about cell phones. A great number of people, for example, use cell phones in an airport. But we also know that rebels all over the world (from FYROM to Sierra Leone and Afganisthan) coordinate their military activities through cell phones. Communication technology change people's way of life, the way we fight a war.

Internet and WEB technologies have a significant impact on command and control systems at strategic operational and even tactical level.

The concept of "security through cooperation" has become more and more used and known at European and international level starting with the end of the Cold War.

It describes a more peaceful but idealistic approach to security by amplifying the cooperation and harmony among nations.

The concept is based on the international security institutions to which new dimensions are added. The conceptual model includes, this way, four concentric security circles, which are inter-related: individual security, collective security, collective defense and promotion of stability.

Among these four circles, **collective security** – a political and legal obligation of the member states to defend the integrity of the individual states from the group of the signatory states and **collective defense** – commitment of all states to defend each other against an external aggression – are well known and understood. The new elements of this security model through cooperation represent common commitments for **individual security** and **promotion of stability**. In spite of the fact that some international security organizations have been established on the basis of the collective security or collective defense, only the North Atlantic Alliance can claim its working in the framework of the four circles of the security through cooperation model. Let's give some examples: depending on the new defense and security interests, the European Union directs itself towards its transformation, de facto, in a security through cooperation organization.

Together with NATO, EU tries actively to bring prosperity and stability in its surrounding area. At the same time, as well as NATO, it cooperates tightly with countries that are not yet EU members and helps them in their strife for their access to the organization.

EU and NATO as well, work together for the enlargement process taking into account the security and defense issues,

which produces a widening of the security through cooperation area and makes it more profound.

In the long term, the OSCE countries are brought into a security organization with a Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian extension that

3.1. Nation states

Nation states still constitute one of the most powerful forces that take action on the international arena, force, which is more and more marked by the globalization process. The future of the states is envisaged, nowadays, in different ways by the multitude of political science schools.

According to an optimistic scenario, supported by the advocates of the neo-liberal theory, national sovereignty will be more and more restrained as soon as the globalization of markets and civilizations overpasses today's geopolitical borders and erodes quite a lot the national identity, creating "global citizens" who assimilate the general interests of the entire humanity.

The other scenario based on the realistic theory, forecasts that states will exacerbate competition among them, just because of the globalization, trying to take control over the new tendencies. This competition, so some political analysts assert, will reconfigure the global distribution of power, conducting to the growing of the welfare and stability of some states and to an increased pauperization and instability in countries that are already poor, widening this way the gap between rich and poor countries.

In both cases, the role and the functions of the states are threatened by other actors on the international arena (multinational corporations, NGO's but also organized crime, drug cartels etc.), which makes that the **present tendency** of the activity of most European countries is the political economic and security integration. This way EU has been created and extended, no doubt, the most stable regional organization, to whom member states (more and more numerous) assign more and more extended tasks and competencies.

A. Nationalism, Nationality, and Ethnicity. Although the state unquestionably

could establish harmony and stability in the Northern half of the Planet, even worldwide.

The direction of the action of forces is very diverse having as a result the contradictory character of their tendencies.

remains the most visible actor in world affairs, **nationalism** and nationality are potent cultural factors defining the core loyalties and identities of many people that influence how states act. Many people pledge their primary allegiance not to state and government that rules them, but rather to the politically active minority group with which they most associate themselves. One broad category of such national groups is **ethnopolitical groups** whose members share a common nationality, language, cultural tradition, and kinship ties. They view themselves as members of their nationality first and of their state only secondarily – a definition that follows the interpretation of E. K. Francis who maintains that "cultural affinities manifest in shared linguistic, religious, racial, or other markers ... enable one community to distinguish itself from others"³. As Okwudiba Nnoli elaborates on the meaning of ethnonationalism, **ethnicity** is "a phenomenon associated with contact between cultural-linguistic communal groups ... characterized by cultural prejudice and social discrimination. Underlying these characteristics are the feelings of pride in the in-group, and the exclusiveness of its members. It is a phenomenon linked ... to forms of affiliation and identification built around ties of real or putative kinship"⁴.

Acknowledgment of the importance of ethnic nationalism (people's loyalty to and identification with a particular ethnic nationality groups) in world affairs reduces the relevance of the unitary state. Many states are divided, multiethnic societies made up of a variety of politically active groups that seek, if not outright independence, a greater level of regional autonomy and a greater voice in the social and foreign policies of the state. In the mid-1990s "of the world's 190 countries, 120 had politically significant minorities". Of 305

active minority groups that were at risk from persecution worldwide, 37 were ethnonational groups, 70 indigenous nations, and 44 national minorities. Relations between **ethnic groups** are also vitally important, as contact is customarily widespread between groups who define their identity by their common ancestry. These divisions and the lack of unity within states make thinking of international relations as exclusively interactions between unified state dubious.

B. The Fourth World. The globe is populated by an estimated six thousand separate indigenous nations, each of which has "a unique language and culture and strong, often spiritual, ties to an ancestral homeland. In most cases indigenous people were at one time politically sovereign and economically self-sufficient". Today there are an estimated 300 million indigenous people, more than 5 percent of the world's population (some have placed the number as high as 600 million).

Indigenous peoples often feel persecuted because they are not permitted full political participation and representation in the states where they reside, and in some cases they feel that their livelihoods, lands, cultures, and lives are threatened. This segment of global society is conventionally referred to as the Fourth World to heighten awareness of "native" or "tribal" **indigenous peoples** within many countries, the poverty and deprivation that confronts them, the state's occupation of the land from which they originate, and the methods to combat discrimination these movements are pursuing⁵. Aroused nationalists are now fighting back across the globe in rebellion against the injustice, misery, and prejudice they perceive the state to have perpetrated against them. The pervasiveness of ethnic nations alongside states is so commonplace that many feel the voice of the people behind the indigenous national movements they lead must be given its due.

Fourth World liberation movements are active in many countries throughout the globe. "For most indigenous peoples, the central issue in this clash of civilization is land". Most seek a state or, more often, a regional government, of their own. In part,

this quest is inspired by and is a reaction to the evidence that between 1900 and 1987 about 130 million indigenous people were slaughtered by state-sponsored **genocide** in their own countries. As Appendix shows, friction escalating to war between indigenous nations and the state occurs in many countries. In other areas, conflicts below the threshold of overt armed violence are heated and activism appears to be growing.

C. National Disintegration and Global Instability. In many cases, Fourth World political activism has resulted in the devolution of state sovereignty and fragmentation of the territorial integrity of existing states. In those countries where indigenous minority groups have gained a grant of internal self-government, the achievement of a measure of quasi-autonomy and a homeland relatively secure from persecution has fostered the protection of human rights and, ironically, has strengthened the state because formerly separatist peoples have been provided joint institutions of governance. However, in less stable countries balkanization, disunion, and even anarchy have resulted.

Although **interethnic competition** is a phenomenon that dates back to Biblical times, it is plague of the post-World War II era. Some of the most explosive flashpoints in the world are the products of disputes between groups in multiethnic and culturally heterogeneous countries, such as Afghanistan, Belgium, Canada, Nigeria, Russia, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, and the United Kingdom, to name a few. Ethnopolitical cleavages have produced a surge of serious conflicts since 1945. According to The Minorities at Risk Project, over three hundred ethnopolitical minority groups facing discrimination have been involved in serious, often violent, struggles between 1945 and 1997, and trend has steadily accelerated since the 1960s. Consider 1994, a year in which "all but five of the 23 wars fought [were] based on communal rivalries and ethnic challenges to states. About three-quarters of the world's refugees, estimated at nearly 27 million people, [were] in flight from or [were] displaced by these ethnic conflicts. Eight of the United Nations' 13 peacekeeping

operations [were] aimed at separating the protagonists in ethnopolitical conflicts”.

The inherent **ethnocentrism** underlying ethnonationalism – the belief that one’s nationality is special and superior and that others are secondary and inferior – breeds ethnic conflict. Nationalists find it easy to condone marginalizing and oppressing “outside” nationalities, and ethnocentric peoples are prone to reject conciliation and compromise with other nationalities. This barrier to co-operation and its conflict-generating consequences was highly evident between 1993 and 1995 in the crumbling peace talks and escalating warfare in the Balkans, as negotiations among the Serbs, Croats, and Bosnians produced no concessions until NATO used force to propel the combatants to the bargaining table. In December 1997 it appeared that this barrier to the resumption of fighting would collapse after the external peacekeeping forces from NATO began to withdraw, but the probability of a blood bath declined when the United States, France, and their interventionary troops pledged to continue to police the explosive situation⁶.

If ethnonationalist values spread and intensify, it is possible that violence will spread also. If so, the forces of disunion and disintegration could overwhelm the power of the state, which has previously bound diverse nationalities into a common purpose. To the extent that conflict within and between ethnically disunited and divided states becomes a major axis on which twenty-first-century world politics revolves, the power and independence of the state can be expected to decline exponentially in a

new era of global anarchy or lawlessness. The perils should not be underestimated.

A large proportion of the world’s nearly 6 billion people is estimated to be members of **religious movements** – politically active organizations based on strong religious convictions. At the most abstract level, a religion is a system of thought shared by a group that provides its members an object of devotion and a code of behavior by which they can ethically judge their actions. This definition points to commonalities across the great diversity of organized religions in the world, but it fails to capture that diversity. The world’s principal religions vary greatly in the theological doctrines or beliefs they embrace. They also differ widely in the size of their followings, in the geographical locations where they are most prevalent, and in the extent to which they engage in political efforts to direct international affairs.

The proponents of most religious movements believe that their religion should be universal – that is, accepted by everyone throughout the world. To confirm their faith in their religious movement’s natural superiority, many organized religions actively proselytize to convert nonbelievers to their faith, engaging in evangelical crusades to win followers of other religions over to their beliefs. Conversion is usually achieved by persuasion, through missionary activities. But at times conversion has been achieved by the sword, tarnishing the reputations of some international religious movements⁷.

The leaders of **extreme militant religious movements** are convinced that those who do not share their convictions must be punished, and that compromise is unacceptable.

Conclusions:

1. Militant religious political movements tend to view existing government authority as corrupt and illegitimate because it is secular and not sufficiently rigorous in upholding religious authority or religiously sanctioned social and moral values.

2. They attack the inability of government to address the domestic ills of the society in which the movement exists. In many cases the religious movement substitutes itself for the government at the

local level and is involved in education, health, and other social welfare programs.

3. They subscribe to a particular set of behavior and opinions that they believe political authority must reflect, promote, and protect in all governmental and social activities. This generally means that government and all of its domestic and foreign activities must be in the hands of believers or subject to their close oversight.

4. They are universalists; unlike ethnic movements, they tend to see their views as part of the inheritance of everyone who is a believer. This tends to give them a transstate motivation, a factor that then translates their views on legitimacy of political authority into a larger context for action.

5. They are exclusionists; they relegate all conflicting opinions on appropriate political and social order to the margins, if they do not exclude them altogether. This means second-class citizenship for any nonbeliever in any society where such a view predominates.

6. Finally, they are militant, willing to use coercion to achieve the only true end.

Although militant religious are not the only nonstate actors whose ideologies and activities may contribute to violence, many experts believe that they tend to stimulate five types of international activities, the first is **irredentism** – the attempt by a dominant religion or ethnic group to reclaim territory in an adjacent region once possessed but later lost from a foreign state that now controls it.

3.2. International organizations

There are two types of international organizations: intergovernmental organizations (their members are the states) and non-governmental organizations (their members are private persons, groups of persons or private institutions). In 1997, 260 international organizations and 5472 NGO's have already been established.

When analyzing the tendencies that characterize the international organizations, we have to take into account the fact that different types of international organizations are not easy to be identified and evaluated.

Theoretically, the permanent character of their activities defines the inter-governmental organizations, by the fact they reunite quite regularly, have similar decision making procedures and also have a permanent work structure (secretariat or headquarters type) and have permanent headquarters.

Force is often rationalized for this purpose. The second is **secession** or **separative revolts** – the attempt by a religious (or ethnic) minority to break away from an internationally recognized state. Here, again, force is sometimes used, often with arms and aid supplied by third parties that support the secessionist goals. When these separative revolts succeed, states disintegrate into two or more political units. The third type of international activity that militant religious tend to incite is **migration** – the departure of religious minorities from their countries of origin to escape persecution. Whether they act more by force or by choice, the result – a fourth consequence of militant religion – is the same: the emigrants create **diasporas** or communities that live abroad in host countries but maintain economic, political, and emotional ties with their homelands. Finally, a fifth effect of militant religions is **international terrorism** in the form of support for radical coreligionists abroad.

The extraordinary increase in number of transnational organizations and the great number of their members generated a complex network that superposes and inter-connects.

In 1996, approximately 200 states and territories had more than 135,000 different delegates, who were representing them in all international organizations, inter-governmental as well as non-governmental ones⁸.

Nowadays, the trend is that of intensifying and diversifying the activity of the international organizations, accomplishing at the same time a partnership between the IGO's and NGO's, creating this way the possibility for both types of organizations of working together, of gathering sometimes in groups of interests or even pressure groups in order to follow common or similar policies and programs.

3.3. *Multinational corporations*

Multinational corporations are business organizations, which have activities in subsidiary companies and use direct investment in other countries. In the mid 90's, more than 38,500 multinational corporations all over the world were having other 250,000 affiliated organizations with a 5,200 billion US dollars business figure, representing 20% of the world's economic activity. These companies were having 73 million personnel / 20% of the employees of the development countries. Transnational banks, whose capital and profits are generated by the transactions, which take place in the international environment, have eased the extension of transnational corporations.

The political role of the multinational corporations is difficult to be defined nowadays, being different from a country to another.

Maybe the most realistic conclusion is in fact that the multinational corporations are not only a threat addressed to states but also a stimulus for the increase of their economic power, because the state is the only one

who can defend the interests of multinational corporations during the international negotiations and can ensure the free access on the market.

The corporations demand the state's input when they need protection or when they want to develop themselves.

At the beginning of the 3rd millennium, great multinational corporations detain not only the technological means but also strategic vision in order to overpass the old time, space, national borders, language, ideology and customs limitations.

By promoting the technology extended all over the world, by developing goods that can be produced and sold worldwide, by spreading bank credit all over the world, by connecting communication channels at a global level, multinational corporations consider these things in economic terms even when they refer to political, private more than public issues and they are to become the world's empires of the 21st century. The trend of this force is then towards globalization, nowadays such a disputed phenomenon.

3.4. *Ethnic and religious extremism*

Generally speaking, extremism is defined as the attitude of some groups of people or organizations, which, on the basis of certain theories, ideas and extreme opinions, try to impose themselves through violent or radical measures.

Ethnic extremism is based on ethnocentrism, meaning the belief that the nationality of a certain person provides him / her superiority over other people that are not of the same nationality. No doubt that ethnocentrism is the source of the ethnic conflict. Some people and especially groups of people, who have such beliefs, do not accept re-conciliation and compromise with other nationalities. This barrier against cooperation and its consequences that generate conflicts has been quite obvious in the case of the conflicts in the ex-Yugoslav area, involving in these conflicts Serbs, Croats, Muslims from Bosnia between 1992

and 1995 and since 1998 Albanians from Kosovo, Serbs and Macedonians. If the values, specific to ethnocentrism are spread and intensified, it is possible and predictable that violence expands. As a consequence, the power of states to maintain together several nationalities in order to build common goals and interests can be overcome by the destructive force.

Religious movements can also become a source of tension in the international environment, especially when they become radical being deeply involved in political actions on large scale and fanatically dedicated to their own cause. The leaders of the militant extremist religious movements are convinced that those who do not share the same ideas must be punished and of course compromise is unacceptable.

Usually these movements have a transnational character and tend to be

universal being at the same time exclusive: they deny all ideas that are not similar with their own social and political order.

Although, ethnic and religious extremism is not the only non-state actor whose ideology and activities contribute to violence, many experts consider that it has the tendency of stimulating five types of international activities.

The 1st type is **irredentism** – the attempt of an ethnic group or of a religion to claim territories in a complementary region, owned sometime in the past and lost later, territories which are now owned by another state.

The 2nd type is **secession** or separatist rebellion, which consists of the attempt of a religious or ethnic minority in

separating by force, from a state acknowledged at international level.

The 3rd type is **migration**, meaning departure of certain ethnic or religious groups from their native country in order to flee persecution.

The creation of a **diaspora**, a community that lives abroad, but who maintain contacts with the native country is the 4th type of international activity.

The 5th effect is the **international terrorism**.

The trend promoted by ethnic and religious extremism is the destabilizing of the international situation at a zonal and even regional level and de-structuring of states where they act, simultaneously with the attempt of establishing (in some cases) their own state entities.

3.5. Nationalism

A. Nationalism – love of and loyalty to a nation – is widely believed to be the cauldron from which wars often spring. “The tendency of the vast majority of people to center their supreme loyalties on the nation-state”, political scientist Jack S. Levy explains, is a powerful catalyst to war. When people “acquire an intense commitment to the power and prosperity of the state [and] this commitment is strengthened by national myths emphasizing the moral, physical, and political strength of the state and by individuals’ feelings of powerlessness and their consequent tendency to seek their identity and fulfillment through the state, ... nationalism contributes to war”⁹.

The connection between nationalism and war suffers from a long history, but it has been especially pronounced in the twentieth century. The English essayist Aldous Huxley once termed nationalism “the religion of the twentieth century”. Today, nationalism is particularly virulent and intense, and arguably, with racism, “the most powerful movements in our world today, cutting across many social systems”.

Most armed conflicts today are fed by nationalist sentiments that promote “war fever... accompanied by overt hostility and contempt toward a caricatured image of the

enemy”, out of which sadistic violence and genocide have historically emanated. This entrenched leads some to argue that “Nationalism has often generated aggression abroad [and] has given us some three dozen costly wars in the Middle East since 1945”. And the danger could escalate. Nationalism's threat to world order led former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to warn in May 1992 that “the demons of nationalism are coming alive again, and they are putting the stability of the international system to the test. Even the United States itself is not immune from the dangerous nationalism”.

B. Internal Rebellion and Secessionist Revolts. Among the sources of civil war, internal violence is a reaction to frustration and relative deprivation – people's perception that they are unfairly deprived of the wealth and status that they deserve in comparison with advantaged others. When people's expectations of what they deserve rise more rapidly than their material rewards, the probability of conflict grows. That, of course, applies to most of the countries in the Global South today, where the distribution of wealth and opportunities is highly unequal. Note in this context that the seeds of civil strife are often sown by national independence movements. “More

than two thirds of all the armed combat in the world between 1945 and 1995 were manifestations of the state-creation enterprise”.

C. Nationalism and “Neonationalism”. Nationalism today is widely regarded as an especially potent cause of war within states as noted earlier. However, the conditions prevailing today lead many to believe that nationalism will incite “wars of states against nations, wars of succession, and major armed uprisings to oust governments” at unprecedented levels.

If nationalism is a powerful influence on internal wars, what is termed **neonationalism** adds a new element to this traditional cause.

Ethnonational Conflict. Since World War II, civil wars provoked by ancient ethnic and racial hatreds have been commonplace in multiethnic states. Between 1945 and 1981, 258 cases of **ethnic warfare** were

observed, 40 percent of which involved high levels of violence. More recently, this armed conflict has reached epidemic proportions. Ted Robert Gurr estimated that 26,759,000 refugees were fleeing the fifty major ethnonational conflicts that were occurring in 1993-1994, each of which was responsible for an average of eighty thousand deaths. Most of the victims were innocent children. Between 1983 and 1993, some 10 million children died in civil strife, and the rate of killing of innocent civilian noncombatants continues to climb. Brutal assaults on civilians, including children, are escalating, and it is estimated that “today more than 90 percent of all casualties are non-combatants”. Of the 40 million refugees worldwide, just over half are **displaced people** – refugees within their own countries – and “women and children are more likely to be made refugees than men”.

3.6. *International terrorism*

Terrorist groups represent a separate type of non-state actor whose activities increase the international tension and undermine the authority and power of states. Terrorism is generally defined as a criminal activity aiming at accomplishing certain political goals, by using violence, most of the times in opposition with the political leadership of the state.

Today, terrorism is a strategy of many movements representing political religious and ethnic minorities that try to obtain the advantages that the majority already has and also try to avenge on those states and on the majority population which is considered as being an aggressor. Terrorist groups try to obtain political freedom, privileges and

material advantages they consider unobtainable because they are persecuted.

The main goal of the nowadays terrorist groups consists of obtaining the independence by secession, and the establishing their own state (for ex. IRA in Northern Ireland, ETA in Spain, UCK in Kosovo, PKK in Turkey and Iraq), but also there are very powerful religious and ethnic militant terrorist organizations, some of them, like Al Qaeda, having transnational activity.

The current trend of terrorist group activities consists of making these activities radical, simultaneously with creating certain legal political organizations that can support their political claims, and fund them.

3.7. *International organized crime*

In a globalized world, having “spiritual” borders or at least very penetrable ones, organized crime can easily use high-tech in computers and communications, to interconnect and extend their operations in order to increase profits. Drug cartels (the best known are the Colombian ones, in Cali and

Medelin, and those operating in the “Golden triangle” in Indochina), networks dealing with nuclear materials that come from the territory of the ex-Soviet Union and the organizations dealing with money laundry represent challenges addressed to the stability of the states where they take action.

The current trend of the activity of organized crime networks is that of extending their transnational activity, simultaneously with the use of high-tech, especially computers, and of luring important political personalities from the countries where they have illegal activities¹⁰.

When analyzing the forces which take action in the international environment we can see that their current tendencies are contradictory some of them contribute to the enhancement of the international security and stability, such as the states, international

organizations and multinational corporations, while others, such as ethnic and religious extremism, organized crime take action in the direction of de-structuring the state system and, generally, in that of changing the current internal and international order.

The practical ways in which the first category of actors will find the most appropriate means to counteract (by political but also coercive means) the activities of the second category provides the extent of the regional security and stability of tomorrow's world.

CONCLUSIONS:

– The international environment is characterized by fluidity and change, from bipolarity to multipolarity

– Besides nation-states, other actors become more and more active and powerful on the international arena

– Mostly of the today trends are a result of globalization and some of them act divergently. As a result, adverse and

opposite trends acting in the same time, could produce conflicts and war, on both, inter and intra state

– The only way to increase regional and global stability and security is to promote cooperation based on sharing values and responsibilities, in order to counter challenges, risks and threats to the national, regional and global security.

¹ Cf. Charles W. Kegley Jr., Eugene R. Wittkopf, *World Politics: Trend and Transformation*, St. Martin's/WORTH, New York, 1999, p. 30.

² Cf. *Strategia de securitate națională a României*, 19 decembrie 2001.

³ Emerich K. Francis, *Interethnic Relations*, Elsevier, New York, 1976, p. 108.

⁴ Okwudiba Nnoli, "Ethnicity", in *The Oxford Companion to Politics of the World*, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 1993, p. 280.

⁵ Franke Wilmer, *The Indigenous Voice in World Politics*, Sage Newbury Park, California, 1993, p. 33.

⁶ Lars-Erik Cederman, *Emergent Actors in World Politics: How States and Nations Develop and Dissolve*, Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey, 1997, p. 98.

⁷ Cf. Susanne Hoerber Rudolf and James Piscator (eds.), *Transnational Religion and Fading States*, Westview, Boulder, Colorado, 1997, p. 58.

⁸ Cf. Teodor Frunzeti, *Organizațiile internaționale în era globalizării*, Editura Academiei Forțelor Terestre, Sibiu, 2000, p. 53.

⁹ Jack S. Levy, *Power, Politics, and Perception: Essays on the Causes of War*, University of South Carolina Press, Columbia, 1999, p. 199.

¹⁰ Phil Williams (ed.), *Transnational Organized Crime*, no. 3/2000, Frank Cass, London, p. 18.