

THE SECURITY ASPECTS OF GLOBALISED CRISES AND THE PHENOMENON OF GENERATED INSTABILITY IN THE POST-SOVIET SPACE

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Globalisation and the world management of economic and social development have created the phenomenon of generated instability based on insecurity and inequality more than ever in history. Insecurity, whose basis includes uncertainty and whose manifestations are fear and inequality, which reflect deep socio-economic differences and whose manifestations are dissatisfaction – are only a dimension of the state of society, as a prerequisite for the development of social and political crises. The global policy of imposition carried out by great powers has become an imperative to protect their interests at the expense of the so-called weak states (undeveloped and developing states) in order to generate instability. The main hypothesis starts from the fact that in the security environment in which conflicts between the US and Russia and the projection of their power beyond their borders have led to the establishment of a wide zone of instability that covers the Black Sea and the Caribbean Sea.

The subject of the research is the analysis of external factors and global circumstances that lead to armed conflicts, and the objective is to explain the security aspects of the establishment of socio-political crises and generated instability that reflects on the countries of the post-Soviet region. It can be concluded that armed conflicts in the post-Soviet countries are becoming rather serious threats to the world order, including the possibility of using weapons of mass destruction.

Key words: *globalisation, crisis, instability, security, post-Soviet space*

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Introduction

Globalisation, as a result of the Western system based on capital accumulation, brings many changes that the countries of former socialism and colonialism did not have an adequate response. Such changes, which affect both political and social, as well as economic segments of society and state, are often accompanied by dangerous and harmful (external and internal) events or circumstances that can develop into a crisis. A crisis can be defined as an unpredictable event or phenomenon, whose beginning is difficult to predict, and its development is impossible to limit and control, because it affects all spheres of political, social and economic life, and leaves far-reaching and unexpected consequences even after the end of the crisis. Every crisis implies changes in the way the state system functions or a part of the system that is directly or indirectly affected by some phenomenon or event.

The subject of this paper is the analysis of the establishment of an economic and socio-political crisis, as a part of the global policy of imposition with the goal of expanding the influence of great powers, which is reflected in the post-Soviet countries and the impossibility of their institutional solution, which is why international entities interfere in internal problems, and we often have the escalation of civil unrest and armed conflicts. Barry Buzan explained the difference between a weak and a strong state through the relationship between the Center, Periphery and Semi-Periphery. If the state is strong (Center), the main threats to its security are external, and if the state is weak (Periphery and Semi-Periphery), most threats are internal, which then reflects on its concept of national security (Buzan, 1991). As a characteristic of weak states, Michael E. Brown mentions endemic corruption, administrative incompetence and the inability to promote economic development. When the state structure weakens, internal conflicts often arise. Michael E. Brown believes that artificially established states are by their very character weak and, in addition to former colonial states, they also include the countries of the former USSR and SFRY (Keković and Dimitrijević, 2017). In this sense, the concept of a weak and undeveloped state, which includes post-socialist states, should be more intensively related to security.

When considering the global architecture of the world order in the last 30 years, after the end of the Cold War, the countries of the capitalist economic system kept the status of developed countries, while the countries of the post-socialist regimes started transition, unwilling to adapt to the globalised concept of development and security. "While socialism, from a radical project of social changes, was deformed in such a way that it became defensive conservatism preoccupied with the defence of the existing state institutions of welfare, unable to respond to the challenges of generated insecurity, neoliberalism "imposed" itself as an unassailable force of destructive and unrestrained capitalism, as a morally problematic concept, which erodes the collective tissue for the sake of efficient accumulation" (Stojanović and Despotović, 2014: 21). The attempt to establish a global society "in the form" of the

Western model of development, implying the imperative of capital accumulation, has produced a system of economic uncertainty and social insecurity.

The problem of the Periphery and Semi-Periphery countries is that they have systemic weaknesses in the state organization management (corruption, recession, sluggish bureaucracy), which is why they cannot provide not only sustainable development, but also peace and security. Those countries traditionally favour certain socio-political and/or military bloc. Regardless of its economic decline, Russia has never ceased to be a military power, allocating great funds for the development and modernisation of weapons, trying to maintain its influence in the post-Soviet space. On the other hand, the US with its European allies, specific mechanisms of soft power, from political blackmail to economic conditioning, imposes and develops government policies in the states of collapsed socialism. As the greatest military organisation, led by the United States, NATO has slowly moved closer to the Russian borders, which, as expected, has met with great diplomatic and military resistance and a fierce response from the Russian Federation.

The security aspects of generated instability

The rise and expansion of the global process is leading to a radical reconfiguration of Russia as one of the leading world powers. While the West has been imposing itself on Europe and the world with its hegemonic policy, Russia has embarked firstly on an energy, then an economic, political and, finally, a military campaign against other, primarily neighbouring countries. With this behaviour, it has positioned itself side by side with the US as the global policymaker that the policy of power and the division of spheres of influence rests on. The competition between Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian geopolitical concepts, conflicts in Eurasia, and also in the Middle East and Africa, terrorism, migrant crisis, energy sources deficit, climate changes, crisis of the idea of global society and the return of realpolitik patterns in international politics represent key strategic and security trends. "The discrediting of the idea of a global society and the increasingly strong Cold War stereotypes, especially the absence of a common idea of establishing a reliable global security structure impose new challenges in terms of defining premises in the protection of national interests, especially of small states" (Stojanović and Đorđević, 207: 466). With the strengthening of Russia, China, India and Brazil, the contours of multipolarity can be seen at global level, but without effects on the number and spread of conflicts. What characterises the world order today is not the lack of bipolarity or multipolarity of great powers, but the division of political and economic interests by the geopolitical ambitions of smaller and greater powers, which leaves room for redefining their roles in armed conflicts across the planet (Jeftić et al., 2018).

Although global security in the 21st century is set as an imperative and the highest value, peace has not been achieved. Transnational economic association

and empowerment, networking through communication and technological development, social transformation of economic development, as a consequence of the policy of imposition, have led to increasing polarisation of society within nations, and also the increasing dependence of the Periphery and Semi-Periphery on the Center. Great powers, as the holders of global change management, instead of development have caused a series of crises in weak states, which is why the establishment of a global society has not happened, but rather the disunity of the few united nations. Unadapted to the new world order promoted by the Western countries, the post-Soviet countries further collapsed in front of global problems. The increasing interference of the West in the internal affairs of a country and the policy of imposing social and economic development is the subject of many scientific discourses in international relations and security studies. Analysing the US foreign policy, former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger considered as early as 1969 that the US role in the attempts of “new nations” to establish legitimate authority called for a serious reconsideration. The dominant US view of political structure is that states will more or less automatically follow economic progress and will take the form of constitutional democracy (Kissinger, 1969). Unfortunately, the policy of imposition has led to generated instability and the collapse of institutions, as the holder of the overall development, which is the reason why the states could not restore stability and security, let alone establish a system of democracy, which does not exist without stable institutions. On the other hand, the Russian attempt to maintain its spheres of influence was met with increasingly intense interference by the West in the internal affairs of the post-socialist, especially former USSR states, in order to achieve absolute military, political and economic dominance.

The management of the state and economic development indicates the relation of politics and economics at global level, as well. International economy is a complex pattern of interaction between national economies, which has to be viewed in the broader context of security challenges. The processes and systemic interaction between military, economic and social factors are very complex and interdependent. All these elements are a part of the complex interaction that permeates the social, economic, military and political system of a state, as well as the directions of its foreign policy actions (Mišev, 2018). The cause of many disintegration processes and insufficient capacities for establishing democracy and neoliberalism are the consequences of causing crises (Figure 1). The production of instability, whose main levers are insecurity and inequality, is based on the well-planned activities of the leading actors of the international scene, primarily the long-term operational activities of many foreign security services. Various covert activities have become a means of communication in international politics through military, economic, diplomatic and propaganda means. It is a well-known fact that stable industrial democracies do not openly use force against others, but occasionally take part in covert intervention, including forced regime change in other democracies (Krstić, 2017). In this sense, security services perform operational activities in the territory of a foreign country by

integrating into state systems, media companies and private corporations. First of all, social transformation is carried out by creating public opinion through media and Internet promotion and engagement of political actors suitable for the structural change of all segments of the state, economic and social system. With the transition from socialism to neoliberalism, the promotion of privatisation and foreign direct investment as the basis of development, there is the shutdown, instead of the reorganization of social enterprises and de facto deindustrialisation and metamorphosis of economy, and the states turn into sales markets dependent on import. The dependence on import creates heavily indebted countries, without the capacity to maintain the liquidity of the financial system, which causes inflation, unemployment and a decline in living standard and life quality. The decline in living standard, i.e. poverty, is accompanied by the development of the gray zone, bribery and corruption, as well as armament, the growth of crime and terrorism. The economic instability, accompanied by fear and uncertainty, is a benchmark for financing political opponents and motivating masses for civil protests aimed at a violent change of government. The relationship of foreign security services, political opposition and crime lead to the weakening of the role of the military and the police, as the holders of the security of citizens and the state and the separation of political actors from security services by creating a line of distrust. "The intelligence service carries out subversive actions through certain forms, such as the creation and use of crises, subversive propaganda, terrorism, sabotage, diversion, the use of special forces and violent coup" (Lazić et al., 2021: 35).

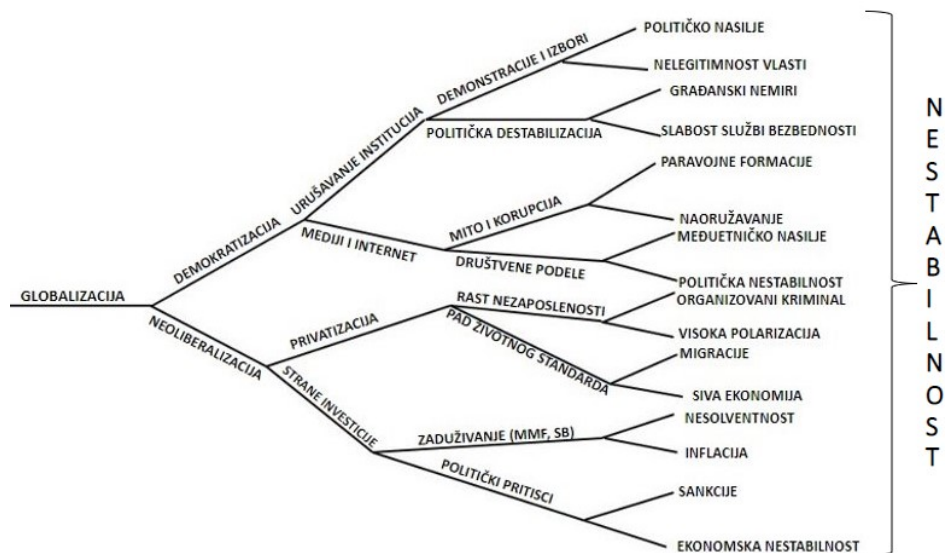


Figure 1 – The diagram of generated instability

Civil and political unrest against the ruling structure undermines the legitimacy of the government and prevents transparent, free and democratic election procedures, as the most important institutional mechanisms of government change, in order to create a security vacuum (Figure 1). In such an atmosphere of insecurity, a good ground for the intensification of the political and economic crisis is provided, with the aim of escalating armed conflicts. When conflict occurs, political loyalty no longer coincides with political boundaries. Conflicts between states merge with divisions within nations and the dividing line between internal and foreign policy begins to disappear. At the very least, some countries are considered threatened not only by foreign policy of other countries, but also by an internal transformation. Smaller countries are torn between the need for protection and the desire to avoid the dominance of great powers. Each of superpowers seeks to maintain supremacy among its allies, to increase its influence among the uncommitted and to improve its security vis-à-vis its adversary (Kissinger, 1969). In this phase of controlled crisis, with the aim of creating instability, economic and diplomatic measures are usually taken, such as economic sanctions, blackmail, suspension of membership in international organizations, political pressures, etc. These measures in no way contribute to the development of stability and peace, but, on the contrary, increase the economic dimension of crisis and support armed conflicts. In multi-ethnic countries, an artificially created gap between different nations and religions occurs. The causes of crisis have both an identity (ethnic and religious) and geopolitical (geostrategic and geoeconomic) dimension, at internal, regional and global level. Actors, who are motivated by strong identity, religious or ethnic motives, are much more motivated to fight and ready to make sacrifices compared to those who are driven by motives in the sphere of material interests. Such actors are characterised by a strongly expressed force of hatred and enmity towards the opponent, and it equally overwhelms the management, the armed forces and the population (Vračar, 2017). What contributes to the intensity of ethnic and secessionist conflicts is the disappearance of the central government, which is going through an exceptional period of economic, political and social instability. Organisational struggles over the country's political issues can be a serious destabilising internal factor (Keković and Dimitrijević, 2017). In the phase of armed conflicts, in addition to many human casualties, there is the destruction of the military, energy, traffic and civil infrastructure, which triggers waves of migration that makes conflict to actually spill over into the surrounding countries, i.e. conflict regionalisation occurs or at least its consequences. At the end of the process of generated instability, first there is diplomatic and then military intervention by one or several great powers. These are mostly air strikes, and also amphibious operations. The entry of foreign military troops into some territory is an act of aggression, and conflicts last from several months to several years with attempts to establish some sort of peace. When the agreement is signed and peace is established, such a country remains the region of the so-called frozen and unresolved conflicts, i.e. the state of generated instability under the control of international entities.

It is evident that instead of democracy, peace and development, globalisation has multiplied security challenges and problems, as indicated by world reports. When viewing the Global Peace Index (GPI) for 2021, it can be noticed that out of 163 countries analysed according to the level of peace, 58 are ranked very high or high, 65 medium and 40 low or very low, i.e. that 2/3 of the countries are in the zones of low level of peace development. This report analyses countries according to three criteria, which include 23 indicators (IEP, 2022). Those criteria are:

1. current national and international conflicts (number and duration of internal conflicts, number of dead in conflicts, role in external conflicts, intensity of internal conflict, relations with neighbouring countries);

2. social safety and security (level of perceived crime in society, number of refugees and internally displaced persons, political instability, scale of political terrorism, impact of terrorism, number of murders, level of violent crime, probability of violent demonstrations, number of prisoners, number of internal security and police officers);

3. militarisation (military expenditure as a percentage of GDP, number of servicemen, transfer (import/export) of conventional weapons, financial contribution to UN peacekeeping missions, nuclear and heavy weapons capacities, ease of access to light weapons).

What is worrying is that the report for 2021 specifically apostrophes the indicators that had the greatest deterioration, namely violent demonstrations, political instability and militarisation. Figure 1 shows that the above-mentioned indicators are a means of causing socio-political crises that produce the state instability. Since one of the most important directions in the development of globalisation is the spread of democracy, it is necessary to analyse the report of the Economist Intelligence Unit. According to the Democracy Index, 2/3 of the world countries are ranked low, that is, they do not have developed democracy (Democracy Index, 2021). According to the mentioned reports, the post-Soviet states are ranked very low according to all factors. According to the Democracy Index, the Ukrainian and Georgian political systems belong to hybrid regimes, while Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan have authoritarian regimes. All countries of the post-Soviet space are ranked medium according to the Global Peace Index, while Ukraine is expectedly low (142 out of 163 countries). These reports indicate that two-thirds of the world countries are highly susceptible to triggering crises, which escalate into the worst form of generated instability, which is armed conflicts.

The geopolitical dimensions of the relationship between the US and Russia in the post-Soviet space

With the disintegration of the Soviet Union into 15 countries in December 1991, a new era in the international relations of Eurasia began. The newly established states tried to deepen their relations with China, Europe and the United States, in order to

soften the influence of Russia (Weitz, 2008). Economically undeveloped and militarily dependent on Russia, they failed to strengthen and establish their institutions as modern developed states, regardless of the accelerated expansion of globalisation and world economic and trade relations. There is the problem related to a great number of disputed territories, which have a cultural, historic, economic and political dimension, and which are located on the borders of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan and other border areas. Institutionally, economically and militarily weakened, these states collapsed in the face of many problems. It has become obvious that new threats to security, in terms of transparent borders, as well as the fact that four out of five Central Asian states border Afghanistan, threaten the rapid spread of armed conflicts throughout the region (Rahimov and Urazaeva, 2005: 18). At the extraordinary session of the CSTO Collective Security Council in January 2022, the President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon stated that the increased activity of international terrorist groups in Afghanistan directly affects the CSTO collective security zone. He warned that the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border is getting more complex every day (CSTO, 2022). In Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, border disputes have turned into armed conflicts. Although both of these countries are in the NATO Partnership for Peace programme, Russia has greater political and military influence, bearing in mind that its military bases are in those countries, which are also members of the Collective Security Treaty Organisation and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (Popović, 2012). The influence of external factors on this conflict is evident, especially taking into account joint military exercises in which, in addition to Russia and Tajikistan, members of the Armed Forces of Uzbekistan also participated (Baltić, 2021). This region is particularly sensitive due to the increasing influx of terrorists, primarily from Afghanistan and Pakistan, and the establishment of paramilitary formations.

Many conflicts in the post-Soviet space, including Nagorno-Karabakh in Azerbaijan, Transnistria in Moldova, Abkhazia and South Ossetia in Georgia, Crimea, Donetsk and Luhansk in Ukraine - are examples of generated instability for the purpose of expanding influence, i.e. control of these regions. "Russia has been the leader of the region for the past 200 years, which has the effect that the Russian policy towards countries in the region and beyond – both in the Caucasus, and towards Belarus, Ukraine and Central Asia – is implemented in such a way as to achieve the Russian dominance over them, whether through cooperation or through coercion" (Rajić, 2021: 231). The war in Georgia arose as a result of the country's approach to NATO in 1995 and the cancellation of the agreement on establishing the Russian military bases in its territory in 1999, as well as due to the outbreak of the so-called "Rose Revolution" in 2003, which brought Mikheil Saakashvili, a pro-Western leader, to be the head of the country, which directly provoked Russia to intervene in Georgia and support the separatists in 2008 (Rajić, 2021). With the separation of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, Russia got a buffer zone towards the Black Sea and pro-Western states. When it comes to the war over Nagorno-Karabakh, Russia and Armenia are strategic allies, with Armenia being a member of

the CSTO and the Eurasian Economic Union. During 2020, Russia was preoccupied with problems in Ukraine and constant political and economic pressures from the West, so it did not provide full support to Armenia in the conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh, considering it an internal issue. Therefore, as in Azerbaijan, Georgia and Ukraine, the authorities in Armenia decided to get closer to the West and NATO. The Moscow Agreement of 2020 confirmed the Armenian defeat, but the peace itself did not end the tensions, which have been going on for 30 years (Perezanović, 2022). Unresolved conflicts, including conflicts in Transnistria, Chechnya, Abkhazia, Nagorno-Karabakh, South Ossetia and Tajikistan, have a negative impact on the situation in the region. They hinder the political and economic development of the affected countries, lead to the brutalisation of political life and create instability, providing conditions for organized crime, terrorism, migration, etc. (Strachota, 2003).

The greatest conflict in the post-Soviet space is definitely the armed conflict in Ukraine, where the Russian Armed Forces began a major military operation in 2022. This war was preceded by years of political unrest and changes of pro-Russian and pro-US authorities (2005, 2007, 2010), whose peak were the so-called Euromaidan demonstrations in 2014 and the signing of the *Treaty of Accession to the European Union*, after which Russia organised a referendum and appropriated the Crimean peninsula as a countermeasure. Using the Georgian model, Russia supported separatists against the pro-Western government of Ukraine, so soon Donetsk and Luhansk declared independence, and the conflicts became more intense. With the escalation of conflicts in the world and the spread of crises to Europe, Henry Kissinger, in 2014, warned that the multidecade treatment of Ukraine as an area for conflict between the East and West destroys any prospect of bringing Russia and the West into the system of international cooperation. The core of the problem lies, on the one hand, in the US attempt to draw Ukraine and other countries into the Euro-Atlantic integration flows, primarily in NATO, and on the other hand in the Russian efforts to maintain its sphere of influence in this part of the post-Soviet space. At the beginning of 2022, the Russian Armed Forces entered the territory of Ukraine, and thus a real modern interstate war began. In addition to Donetsk and Luhansk, then Kherson, Mariupol and Odesa, the military operations of the Russian Armed Forces are also directed at the rest of Ukraine, which causes particularly great concern in Poland, as well as in Finland and Sweden, and throughout Europe. The entire Eurasian region became a training ground for the conflict between the US and Russia, creating generated instability in which both powers played an important role. Kissinger also refers to the fact that Ukraine has been independent for only 23 years, so it is not surprising that its leaders have not acquired the skill to achieve compromise and balance between the East and West, and also between pro-Western Catholic and pro-Russian Orthodox Ukrainians (Kissinger, 2014). His position did not change even in 2021, when he called on the West, and above all the United States, to analyse its foreign policy, which includes the obligation to change government structures around the world, in order to make them compatible with the West. Kissinger believes that there has to be a consensus among great powers on

the directions of establishing the international system, because in such a constellation of power, a conflict will get out of control and the whole world will be in a situation like before the First World War, which has exactly happened in the case of Ukraine (Kissinger, 2021). In this way, Kissinger seriously questions whether the violent change of government in certain countries is the best way to achieve democracy and sustainable development of countries and security related to them.

The post-Soviet states, such as Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Tajikistan, were not ready for the changes brought about by globalisation, which made it impossible for them to independently strengthen economically and, therefore, militarily. "In the context of great turmoil at global level, we believe that the aforementioned pivot states in the Russian surroundings make many moves contrary to their interests, bringing themselves into direct confrontation with Russia" (Despotović and Glišin, 2021: 133). All the countries of Eastern Europe have opted for Euro-Atlantic integration, which made room for NATO to slowly expand its capacities and influence towards the East, placing the countries of Eastern Europe under its protectorate. This has seriously disturbed the balance of power between great powers, primarily in favour of the US. Russia has indicated the offensive expansion of NATO and the approach to the Russian borders (in 1999: Poland, Czechia, Hungary, then in 2004: Slovakia, Bulgaria, Romania, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, etc.), as well as the deployment of the US anti-missile defence in Eastern Europe and the Baltic region, as a security threat to its national interests. It is clear that the continuation of the NATO expansion process to the East has very negative consequences for global security in the context of causing the Russian permanent dissatisfaction, which has influenced the radicalisation of the Russian approach to global security. The Eurasian region, which includes the countries of the Caspian and Black Sea region, has great geostrategic importance, primarily from the security and energy aspect, which is why control of this region is one of the Russian vital interests. The cause of the instability of the post-Soviet space should be sought in the attempts of the US to make this region a buffer zone and isolate Russia from Europe and Asia, in order to make the transit of the Russian energy products, as well as close trade relations, difficult. Therefore, it is not surprising that the Russian Federation, first imperceptibly, and then rather openly, launched its military capacities as aggressively as the Western Alliance. Instead of stability and development, great turmoil and crises have been caused, characterised by waves of instability and insecurity in the post-Soviet republics (Figure 1). The escalation of the conflict and the use of the most modern weapons and equipment, as well as the Russian threat with a nuclear arsenal in Ukraine, has caused a crisis of global proportions. The most important supranational institution of the UN has lost its importance, military intervention is carried out without the consent of the UN Security Council, and the countries that pursued a policy of military neutrality, Finland and Sweden, have opted for NATO. For the first time since the Cuban Crisis, the world is facing the most dangerous threat, which is the spillover of regional conflicts to Europe and the world, as well. Therefore, it is clear that the policy of the Cold War has come to life in its most extreme form - secessionist conflicts in the Eurasian region with the tendency to cause another global war.

Conclusion

The process of transformation of economic and political systems of states includes complex interactions of subjects in the international system. Causing crises has only one goal - the institutional collapse and destabilisation of a country in all its segments, firstly economic, social and political, and then security. Globalisation has enabled great powers to make the national right to political affiliation and economic and social organisation meaningless through the policy of imposition. In this way, great powers have created the concept of generated instability, with the aim of preserving and expanding their influence and control over weak states, including the post-Soviet states. Many conflicts around the world show that the global policy of imposing and managing changes does not provide constructive solutions for building peace, but collapses the main foundations of democracy and free economy, establishing not only states, but also entire regions of generated instability.

The security complex of Europe, that is, the subcomplex of Eastern Europe, has been struck by armed conflicts, in which almost all actors of the international community are involved. Great powers have not been taught by the example of the countries of the former SFRY, which represent a symbol of the collapse of the international order and the most tragic example of generated instability. Unfortunately, they have also missed the chance to use the Ukrainian crisis to reach a political consensus for establishing a stable international bipolar order or greater involvement of the international community in the new global order. Great powers, such as China, India and Brazil, have remained on the sidelines of these tragic events, not taking responsibility for preventing the collapse of peace and the establishment of entire regions of instability. In the wake of many wars (Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan) and various diplomatic and political fronts (Moldova, Armenia), the greatest danger nowadays is the growing uncertainty of global confrontation with elements of the threat of nuclear warfare. Moreover, we should not neglect the outbreak of a war on a wider scale, during which non-nuclear weapons of mass destruction would be used. More than ever, the world needs a consensus of great powers regarding the establishment of a new, more stable and safer global order, whose contours are still not visible, due to the growth of tensions and armed conflicts.

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Summary

The key strategic and security trends at global level are conflicts in Eurasia, terrorism, migrant crisis, energy sources deficit, climate changes, and also the crisis of the idea of a global society, whose causes lie in the eternal competition between the US and Russia over the expansion of spheres of influence and power. With the collapse of socialism, great powers, as the holders of global change management instead of development, have caused a series of socio-political crises in weak states, which is why the establishment of a global society has not been done, but rather numerous conflicts and wars within and between states. Unadapted to the new world order promoted by the Western countries, the post-Soviet countries have further collapsed in front of global problems. Since its collapse, all the countries of the former Soviet Union have found themselves between the Russian influence and the increasing penetration of the Western powers, primarily the US, into this region. The generation of instability, whose main levers are social insecurity and economic inequality, is based on the well-planned activities of the leading actors of the international scene, which is why these countries have been in constant phases of armed conflicts and frozen conflicts for 30 years. With the transition from socialism to neoliberalism, the promotion of privatisation and foreign direct investment as the basis of development, social enterprises have been shut down and de facto deindustrialisation and stagnation of economy has happened, and the states turn into sales markets dependent on import. Dependence on import creates heavily indebted countries, without the capacity to maintain the liquidity of the financial system, which causes inflation, unemployment and a decline in living standard and life quality. The decline in living standard, i.e. poverty, is accompanied by the development of the gray zone, bribery and corruption, as well as armament, an increase in crime and terrorism. Economic instability, accompanied by fear and uncertainty, is a benchmark for financing political opponents and motivating masses for civil protests for a violent change of government. In such an atmosphere of

insecurity, a good ground is provided for the intensification of the political and economic crisis, with the aim of escalating armed conflicts. The Eurasian region, which includes the countries of the Caspian and Black Sea regions, has great geostrategic importance, primarily from the security and energy aspect, which is why control of this region is one of the Russian vital interests. The cause of the instability of the post-Soviet space should be sought in the attempts of the US to make this region a buffer zone and isolate Russia from Europe and Asia, in order to make the transit of the Russian energy products, as well as close trade relations, difficult. Ukraine and other post-Soviet countries are collateral damage in the geopolitical and geostrategic contests of great powers, namely the US and Russia. Instead of stability and development, great turmoil and crises have been caused, characterised by waves of instability and insecurity in the post-Soviet republics. The escalation of the conflict in Ukraine, instability in Georgia, wars in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and even Afghanistan and Syria, have led to a serious threat to global security, primarily due to rather frequent threats of nuclear and hypersonic weapons, and also weapons of mass destruction. The world has come close to the greatest crisis since World War II. The United Nations has lost its role and importance, permanently neutral states, such as Finland and Sweden, are changing their foreign policy course by opting for NATO, and the danger of a war breaking out on a wider scale has become a serious political and scientific discourse. The state of international relations and responses to global threats to security definitely depend on the achievement of the interests of great powers that are fighting for influence, resources and survival in a position of power.

Key words: *globalisation, crisis, instability, security, post-Soviet space*

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