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## **CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING THE IMPACT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY ON NATIONAL SECURITY**

**Cpt.cder. Aurelian NIȚĂ**

71<sup>st</sup> Air Flotilla /Câmpia Turzii/ România

### **Abstract :**

The concept of security until 20 years ago was studied only by strictly military aspect.

Changes occurring at the end of the century, in European environment, led redefining the concept (security) by considering the threats type such as : economic, social, ecological, etc., in the event of a broad framework of measures against them.

The pages that follow capture the steps of analyzing the economic impact on National Security from the perspective of the Copenhagen School and also Army position, in shaping of the security features of the new capitalist economic system.

Starting from understanding the new concepts, in the future, we will be able to understand the necessary requirements to maintain realistic control over the national economy in order to ensure security.

*Key words: Copenhagen School, security, people, states, economic security, transition, restructure, managerial revolution.*

### **1.Introduction**

“Until “recently”, “security”- usually understood as “national security”- has meant keeping some military expenses at a high degree, as a preventive measure considered justified in the past, when such attacks were thought to be the only real threats to national survival. However, today, when the atmosphere is polluted with poisonous substances due to some nuclear and chemical accidents, which spread death and disease on large areas of the Earth (e.g. disasters such as Chernobyl in USSR) and when the danger of epidemics (e.g. AIDS) and natural disasters ( e.g. the “green house” effect) may endanger human life throughout the entire natural environment on the planet, the perspective of a narrow and restrictive view if the security concept seems completely anachronistic and unrealistic.

The collapse of the Soviet Union set as an urgent necessity abandoning the traditional analysis way of the concept of realistic security type based on military and political studies. “The core problem was that by the time of its fast decline and subsequent implosion, the Soviet Union had at least the second military force that has ever existed in the world. The Soviet security was fatally compromised by the weakness of its socio-economic and institutional policy basis and not by lack of military force. The implications of this fact were that the hierarchy problems in the traditional agenda of security supported by “high level” and “low level” notions ignored, or at least simplified the very complex interaction between socio- economic and national security issues”.[1]

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Abandoning for good the analysis way of the realistic security concept set exclusively on military matters was the loss on control over the reform process by Gorbachev. Clearly, many theorists and probationers of politics, all very influential, were aware of the internal crisis in the Soviet Union. However, those who criticize the traditional concept of security argue that these crises did not receive the needed attention because of the narrow approach of the security agenda. The (neo)realist paradigm found difficult including internal socio- economic matters into its agenda. The argument is that this fact contributed to, and also supported the logic of “level” and “low level” politics. Security issues were considered of primary importance, and political and military aspects or “high level” politics, were synonymous with security. This way, complex forces which acted in the Soviet Union and which eventually led to its collapse were not included on the security’s agenda. Consequently, many theorists and practitioners have been disconcerted by the sudden end of the Cold War and the collapse of the Soviet Union.

### **2. Adapting to the new challenges**

The new way to analyze the concept of security was provided by the so-called “Copenhagen School” which soon became the common name for the entire analysis of the security concept and the items to which security must be provided. All this literature was generated by some analysts associated to the Copenhagen Centre for peace and conflict research. Certainly, the most influential analysts were Barry Buzan and Ole Waever. Their innovative activity has brought great contribution, and in some cases has shifted the debate on the nature of security studies.

The Copenhagen School considered the security studies “as being problematic if they are narrowly built around the military dimension of security and excluding other dimensions” [2].

Through publishing of “People, States and Fear”, Barry Buzan has provided the theoretical support to analyze the security concept by including other types of security together with the military one.

The first complex analysis that launched the idea of different ways of security, and that contributed to its inclusion on the agenda of academic perspectives, was made in Barry Buzan’s book “People, States and Fear”, published in 1983. Due to its publishing during the first Reagan administration and in the middle of what some people called “the second Cold War”, the book had a real impact. And the second edition published in 1991 had a greater impact. Buzan illustrates the international system, states and individuals as objects of reference, and the military, political, economic, societal and environmental landscapes as sources of potential threats to those references. This is a starting point to clearly understand the complexities of the security “problem”. Perhaps the most debated of these dilemmas refers to the extent that it is useful to privilege any of the reference objects of security.

The most powerful debate focused on rival claims of states and individuals on the position of primary referees of security. This dilemma was stated most clearly by Ken Booth when he asked: “the easiest test refers to the main reference object: states or people? Whose security comes first?” For Buzan, the answer, at least in “People, States and Fear” is that the main concept of security must be the state” [3].

So, extremely important, Barry Buzan believes that “politics should be made only in a state’s level in order to ensure security” [4]. Since the “economic security of a company,

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however, means more than economic security of economic or market agents. The issue is related to the state's role in the economy [5]”.

Examining the “extremely difficult idea of economic security”, Barry Buzan points out that “the national economy belongs somehow to the physical basis of the state” and “the economic threats are, undoubtedly, the most misleading and difficult to dominate in the national security”, therefore, in a market system, there is a huge number and variety of economic threats so that these “economic threats seem like an attack to the state” [6].

So, the Copenhagen School’s thinking has influenced the politics of most member States' in security organizations. In 1991, during the summit in Rome, NATO has decreed – in Copenhagen School’s classical language - that security now has five dimensions: military, societal, political, economic and environmental.

Copenhagen school has not only influenced the way researchers analyze the security concept, it also had an impact on the community that writes policies. North Atlantic Treaty Organization “provides the forum where consultations take place in any problems and where the member countries make decisions regarding political and military problems which could affect their security. The organization provides necessary structures to make consultations and cooperation among member countries easier regarding political, military and economic areas, such as scientific and outside military areas ” [7].

The potential power of a nation “is thought to derive from several sources that should be considered as a unified and balanced system. These sources are: geography, population, economy, national will, leadership” [8]. Some strategic analysts argue that in the next century, which we will reach in a few months, economic competition will be much more important than military competition in order to gain national power. Corresponding to this view, they say that the main emphasis should be on “economic basis of national security” [9]. In this respect, another author believes that “the economic potential of a state reveals its power” [10].

The economic power, understood as the ability to exploit the economic potential of a country at a certain point, allowed the Romanian state to support the military reform that aims at "building a modern army, appropriately sized, flexible and mobile, with a credible combat capability regarding its efficiency, able to discourage and deal any external military threat "[11].

Carrying out the transformation process of the Romanian Army “will have as a result the creation of military capabilities characterized by flexibility, high response speed and interoperability” [12]. The transformation process of the Romanian Army is very complex, and getting success in the field depends on the financial, human and material resources required to support it. The main element which determines the size, performances and efficiency of the armed forces are finances.

Carrying the reform process of the armed forces “depends on the country's financial resources, on the institutional possibility of the Ministry of National Defense to implement policies and measures correlating them to policies of economic reform and institutional capacity of other ministries and agencies to meet the time functions they must do. Taking into account these institutional requirements, annual military spending will account for 2,38 % of gross domestic product [13]”, an effort that depends on providing a real economic development.

A strong, performant and competitive economy, macro-dynamic stable in terms of growth, and functional "is an important pillar of security, providing conditions for economic and social security , the interest of the majority to support the basis for

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democratic institutions and the necessary basis for promoting initiatives aiming at the nation's prosperity and security”[14].

The effects of the transition process are reflected mainly in the growth of economic competitiveness, as a result of macro stabilization efforts of the state through a series of applied security policies, and as an indirect result of private business activity.

Structural improvement of the Romanian economy is, first of all, the result of the consecration of freedom as a choice of possible solutions from the most profitable and most efficient. Economic nonsense like “planned losses” have definitely become history.

Shaping the new security elements of capitalist economic system is based on achieving the old goal of rebuilding and renewing economy, realities demonstrated by a tough export, which performed because of improving the quality of the products, this became a real peak for of our nation’ s competition with other nations.

The new restructuring factor in the economy led to the placing small or medium economic unit instead of the industrial giants, creating possibilities of accessing better resources and causing new economic balance. So, the force of democracy is given by the amount of effective actions of all economic agents, which emphasizes efficiency as a rule for economic security.

Understanding the mechanisms of centralized economy of the communist years and the effects of their economic doctrine is one of the starting points needed to assess developments on the economic security of the entire Romanian society.

Also - in my opinion – it is a real help to be aware of the devastating effects that handling and application of scientifically unfounded theories can have in the life of the entire international community and, in particular, the destinies of nations, in order to forcefully address and in an appropriate way these forgeries which are well hidden under a reason, actually serving the interests of foreign economic security and protection of the entire social construction of democracy.

A realistic understanding of the necessary requirements to maintain control over the economy and to overcome the negative circumstances, offering each time the absolutely necessary solution for economic progress is a huge performance of the technocrat Romanian economic elites, whose role might be better emphasized in the future.

Through effective collaboration with the major international economic institutions, the Romanian technocracy opened the gate to a global economy for the national economy too, allowing the essentially strategic purpose of the whole process of transition - the modernization of the Romanian nation.

The managerial revolution in Romania is the certain element of achieving a future climate of economic efficiency, being able to guarantee the elimination of disparities to western European economies.

Also, strengthening and improving the business of the market, based on the principle of free competition and social solidarity is a priority. It is “the basis for healthy economic development, capable to ensure effective integration of Romania into the European Union, assuring globalization demands, normal access to resources and international markets, resistance to major economic fluctuations” [15].

### **3. Conclusion**

•The evolution of the concept of security and its great complexity caused a review of the analysis of its problems.

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•Knowledge of economic realities which was the starting point of transition in Romania in an effort to close the gap to the free world, is one of the keys to understanding the events of our recent history and certainly for understanding developments in the future, too - hopefully - as few years as possible.

•Changing the economic mechanism of communist type to the capitalist type resulted in the creation of a new economic environment in which our country can appreciate that there has been a lower extent than the one desired of the technological revolution - and Romania jumped over it in the past, but which was implemented by free economic activity throughout the national economy that has a guaranteed progress through practicing modern management.

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