

## 2017-2018: EUROPEAN REALITIES AND PERSPECTIVES

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Abstract: It seems that a new page of contemporary history has returned. The United States, the Russian Federation and the European Union have been caught up in a major political challenge - the fight against terrorism supported by Islamic fundamentalists. Thus the agreed "new order" promoters are forced to accept their potential defeat.

Key words: Malta, EU, Russian Federation, USA, Schengen

### AFTER 28 YEARS FROM HISTORICAL MEETING IN MALTA...

It has been seven decades since the world politics lords shared their spheres of influence in Yalta in February 1945. The Soviet Union maintained its allies, the United States and the UK in a chess game, winning the "lion's share" before the end Predictable of the German Reich. We know what followed later: a long "Rite War" in which the world split between East and West.

There have been crises, powerful conflicts (peripheral confrontations), but also conjectures between the United States of America and the Soviet Union. The United States has helped restore the Western European economy to consolidate democratic regimes, threatened by the rise of extreme-left and right-wing currents, while the Soviet Union has tried to consolidate its Eastern Bloc by annihilation of "monolithic cracks." The European Communities and the CAER, NATO and the Warsaw Pact were the "aces" of world politics.

In December 1989, in Malta, Mihail S. Gorbachev and George Bush decided it was time for a change. As in the case of inter-alliance conferences, when decisive meetings took place on Soviet "land" and now history has decided the same. Although Malta was in the Mediterranean, it proclaimed its neutrality in 1980. The two "big" ones were to meet each other on board a military ship of each side. However, bad weather conditions have made the "land" still Soviet, that is, a Soviet cruiser, "Maksim Gorki".

28 years ago, the two superpowers had ceased to assume their role as a "firefighter, " (in a declarative

way ) although it would have been useful in their view to continue to watch fire control and extinction, as the fires of change had already begun: „We should be highly responsible to face up to the challenges of today's world. And the leaders of our two countries cannot act as a fire brigade, although fire brigades are very useful. We have to keep it in mind also. This element was also present”.

The year 1989, in its last month, had already seen the collapse of the Berlin Wall, the fall of communist regimes in many states in the "Socialist Block". Romania, under the euphoria of the 14th Congress, seemed to resist, while its leader, Nicolae Ceausescu, appealed to the solidarity of the socialist world, a world that disintegrated with the will of Washington and Moscow.

We all know what followed. Communism in Central and Eastern Europe has vanished, the Soviet Union collapsed, and the Russian Federation has accepted the vital infusion of Western capital, following the scenario of Tsar Peter the Great: "we take from Europe what we need and we turn our backs." This is how the oligarchs, the promoters of unprecedented corruption, emerged, while Vladimir Putin, a man formed at the Soviet secret service school, was making his way. The "Kremlin 1" man arrived, no longer willing to swallow the NATO enlargement of the European Union, allowed by his predecessor, Boris Yeltsin, without concessions.

However, although many had closed the "Cold War" on the pages of the Treaties of International History and Relations, the old crises of that period reappeared. When the "West" followers intervened

somewhere, those of the "East" counterattacked. The new facet of the Cold War, the global struggle against terrorism, showed how hurriedly Malta's "ideological children" were to become creators of a "new order."

In the North African and Middle East Arab regions, the "Arab Spring" was triggered. The "children" of Malta believed that the "South East Europe recipe" would work. That is, the opposition, escaped by "dictatorship", will take power. They committed a serious error. They ignored Islamic, latent and explosive fundamentalism. Nor is it surprising because the Americans funded the Afghanistan rebels fighting the Soviet occupants. The Islamic Revolution brought Iran out of the US circuit, with the US resisting Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Jordan, and other states that have accepted Western prosperity, practicing a moderate Islam in exchange for their oil, extracted, processed and traded by US.

If the Russian Federation maintained its control in Syria, the United States strengthened itself in Turkey, Israel. However, the European Union has seen how Greece has massively fought that the prosperity of its own people can be maintained with money from Moscow, rather than suffer in exchange for money in Brussels.

Neither Turkey's president, Recep Erdogan is much more excited to play as the US plays, so the Cold War has reborn like the Phoenix bird. The US supported the Syrian rebels against the Assad government, backed by the Russian Federation. Among the rebels, however, came from the Islamic State, so the US found themselves helping the rebels, making the game of the fundamentalists. The Islamic state is no longer like Al Qaeda. The European Union saw itself invaded by a wave of refugees, as if the years of the beginning of the Middle Ages, as the most evolved European civilization, returned, when the Roman Empire collapsed by implosion after the migrants had infiltrated its power structures when The hordes of the East came.

Of course, many of the refugees are innocent, they are poor running war. However, where do they have thousands of euros to go with the suitcases on the back to Europe? Curiously, in the Middle Ages, mi-

grants have gone to us. Now, he refuses us elegantly, saying that we are too poor for them. However, this migration is the way in which fundamentalism expands in Europe.

The European Union already has millions of Muslims, a fertile ground for terrorists to gain followers and act. The European Union has moved too easily from post-colonialism to freedom of movement. Not for us, the East, but for the Islamists from the ancient colonies of Maghreb, Pakistan, Syria, etc. The Russian Federation has decided to boycott the European path of the former Soviet Republic of Moldova, Ukraine, Georgia, by releasing the "matriisk" and supporting the enclave independence. The Russian Federation has shouted over the fence to the European Union that if it threatens to sanction it will not have enough to heat the "five o'clock tea" and, moreover, it can not control the Caucasus Emirate, an Islamic structure from the mountain region where Prometheus had once been chained. The Russian Federation has also beaten the European Union, showing that in the former Soviet Union, the Turkish-speaking Republican Central Asian Nations controlled radical Islam.

I mean, the Russian Federation has experience in fighting radical Islam since the time of Stalin's deportations. Thus, the European Union and the US have come to see how the Assad government is supported by the Russian Federation, a similar action with the support of pro-Russian rebels in Ukraine, for which the Kremlin has received sanctions.

### **WHO ARE THE "PATIENTS" OF EUROPE?**

"Fugit irreparable tempus" is a Latin expression that reminds us of how passable we are. We are so preoccupied with our passing through life, we feel so aggrressed by the new that we forget that the past is coming back, or if it does not return, at least parts of it can always be up to date.

"Whoever forgets the past risks to repeat it!", It was said with reference to the communist regime in Romania. I dare say that this expression finds its usefulness in all situations. Napoleon became famous because he recalled from history that Hannibal passed with the elephants through the strait of

Saint-Bernard, being a colossal surprise for the Romans. He also managed to be as surprising for the Austrians, who, either of us, had impressive libraries, academies, high military schools in Vienna. He succeeded, first of all, because he was passionate about history.

Today, in our immediate vicinity, the fire is boiling under the pontic-Mediterranean geo-geopolitics boom. SUA, the Russian Federation and the European Union are the main actors. Many do not complain about what's going on and they start to regret the "Cold War, " which, in addition to some kind of "stinging", meant a line of demarcation between the East and the West. Today, we do not know what the "East" is and the "West." Personally, by cleaning the library, I got some notes from the time of my studies, while Romania's settlement at the community table was a beautiful dream, and the US umbrella seemed a fantasy.

I remembered that, until 1683, the Ottoman Empire threatened European geopolitics, being the second time rejected under the walls of Vienna. Then I remembered that Russia had the task of defending Christians oppressed by the Turks and that it was intended to restore the Byzantine Empire. The project belonged to Catherine the Great, German, of origin. Basically, Russia wanted to control the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles, so to have access to the Mediterranean, which was "our great nostrum" or "great internum" for NATO.

The Empress interested the Habsburg Emperor Joseph II, but he was warned by his strategists that it was a trap, so the related Russian-Turkish war did not lead to the materialization of the project. Vladimir Putin also did his geopolitical school in Democratic Germany, and he does not have the same plans

If in ancient times Russia's Tsarist considered the Ottoman state as the "sick man" of Europe and tried in 1856 and 1878 to make the law on the continent, dividing its inheritance, it was temperate, first by England and France and then by Germany.

After the First World War synopsis, for over 70 years, the USSR, then Russia defended its position. Vladimir Putin wants to show Europe that the "sick man" is an appropriate expression for Greece, Cy-

prus, Turkey. Greece is now controlled by socialists, who do not exclude, apart from European and Euro-Atlantic obligations, an independent regional policy.

Greece and Turkey are fighting Cyprus, from which Turkey has the northern, while the southern-most independent is like Greece as a member of the European Union. Turkey is "sick" by the pride that although she is a NATO member, and European affairs go well, she has not yet received her seat at the table. Both Greece and Turkey, as well as Cyprus, strongly touched by the banking crisis, have the primacy in the immediate vicinity of the hot Middle East, where the Russian Federation also has great interests.

The possibility of Cyprus agreeing to host Russian bastions makes it terrible for EU officials, more than the annexation of Crimea or the splitting of Ukraine. Greece is in difficult negotiations to renegotiate foreign debt, the question of leaving the Eurozone, which makes this spring a flaming one. Russia's entry into the Mediterranean, where there is a Syrian bridgehead, means the reopening of the old story of the "sick man" I thought was clinging to the Clio museum.

### **A NEW EUROPEAN TREATY ON EUROPEAN BORDERS?**

The European Union is in a situation of crisis of the refugees. Who knows the story knows that the solution always represents the conduct of the negotiations.

The whole history of Europe shows us that symbolism was at the forefront. Europe split in 842 at Argentoratum, an old Roman camp, when two heirs of Carol the Great revolted against the third: Charles "the Bald" and Louis the "German" defeated Lothar the "Fat man", the master of Lotharingia, The artificial strip from Northern Europe, which came to the middle of Italy, which separated the future France from the future of Germany. In the modern age, Elsass-Lothringen, that is to say, Alsace-Lorraine was a land of German-French dispute. In the Middle Ages, the 100-year Franco-English war started from Flanders, as the Netherlands caused many wars in the modern age. One of the best-known settlements,

beginning in the 8th century, was Bruocsella, the "house of the swamp". This would be the start-up history of the European cities of today, Strassbourg and Brussels. About Athens, it is useless to talk.

At the time of the Argenteratum and Bruocsella settlements, democracy was born on the Acropolis, the League of Delos, an alliance of continental fortresses and islands designed to defend itself in common with the Persians, the first major danger to Europe in the V-th century B.C. The European edifice was formed in the second half of the 20th century using the symbols of its previous division. Thus, the Community treaties were signed in Paris, Rome, Maastricht, Amsterdam, Nice, Lisbon. If Paris was for centuries a place of European and world peace treaties, a great distance following Berlin and London, Vienna, Rome was almost ignored, although it was the capital of the Roman Empire, the unquestionable model of today's European building. More important was Constantinople, the old capital of the Byzantine Empire, then the Ottoman Empire. As we can see, Athens has somehow remained a symbol of classical antiquity. The country of democracy has not been the subject of any Community treaty.

In 1985, the agreement in which the free movement was regulated and the customs controls were abolished between the signatory states of the agreement was signed in Schengen in Luxembourg. Following the Single European Act and after Maastricht, the European Union has defined its profile in line with the post-communist situation in Central and Eastern Europe. The sovereign debt crisis, the Euro zone's sensitivity and the refugee crisis are the contemporary challenges. Those who foresee the transition to the everlasting Coanda Europa are not at all few. A first major failure was that of the European Constitution in 2004, which was designed and signed in Rome but later blocked by referendum in some Member States. In 2004, Athens hosted the modern Summer Olympic Games, the second time in its entire history, after its debut in 1896.

In 2007, Lisbon, where it started from "New World, " was chosen as the headquarters for the "Constitutional Treaty". More and more analysts have said that the solution is to suspend the "Schen-

gen agreements" and provide for the end of the communist regime. At the same time, however, Greece is pushed by the European Union because of the massive admission of refugees through its islands as a consequence of "impotence". I think the call to history will save us again. Athens, for centuries, knew how to make an "island policy." The Aegean islands are partly in the European Union, partly in Turkey, the eternal candidate. But let's not forget that southern Italy, southern coasts of France, Spain, North Africa had Greek colonies. Southern Italy, with the famous Lampedusa today, once formed "Magna Graecia". Frankly, I am not among those who believe that among the magnificent Greek and Italian islands, torpedoes should be put in place to stop the refugees in inflatable boats and small fishing vessels. I'm just saying it directly. Europe Union in Brussels and Strassbourg must think of a new EU treaty to be signed in Athens.

This may be the European Union's External Borders Treaty. New institutions, such as a Euro-pean Refugee Office, may be created under the direct guidance of the Commissioner for Migration, the High Representative for Foreign Policy.

We already know that the European Union, as early as 1954, when the French blocked the European Defense Community, for the EU, the European Army remains a beautiful dream that NATO cannot indefinitely serve. If all the other European capitals hosted community treaties or Euro-Atlantic summits (Madrid, Prague, Bucharest, Warsaw), Athens, Europe's first capital was stepped in.

I do not think the Schengen area is useless. Schengen is a historical symbol, an important conquest of European thinking. I became aware of this fact, many years ago, crossing in a coach the smooth motorway that sprouted the snowy Alps at the end of the first year of Romania as a member of the European Union, the Austrian-Italian border. Immediately, after the blue indicator inscribed in German, announcing the exit from Austria, followed by the green one, which in Italian announced the entry into Italy. I immediately remembered the wars between Austria and Italy, about the bloodshed in these places for centuries. European frontiers have bled

for centuries. In the future, in Athens, it may be decided that the blood of some of the fallen men of the fate does not color the wonderful waters of the Aegean Sea or the Mediterranean Sea, Europe's most exposed European frontiers.

Not the fences at the internal borders are the solution, but the establishments of the European forces to ensure the external borders, which monitor the refugees' entry, ensure their taking and accommodating in better conditions than those for which they left. Many EU Member States are involved in crises in refugee states. Frankly, I did not see Greece intervening in Egypt, Syria, Tunisia, Iraq. So, it does not have to be the only one responsible for failing to stop them. At Athens, democracy was born, not concentration camps! When you are a member of a Union, you have obligations. There are many who say that some Member States cannot ensure minimum rights for their own citizens, so they cannot understand how to ensure those of the refugees allocated by quota. As Strassbourg became the symbol of the division, a symbol of the Franco-German reconciliation, Athens can become the symbol of the guarantee of peace, European security and the European partnership with Turkey. It would only be a resumption of the ancient Roman policy of creating a system of loyal allies at the frontiers, especially those with the East.

### **A SWOT ANALYSIS TEST**

The last two years have been quite aggressive: the Greek question, the Ukrainian crisis, the issue of energy independence, the terrorist attacks, and the assault of the refugees. There are many who have rushed to foresee breaking the European dream. As there are many who think that for the European Union, history still has many challenges. It is important to state from the outset that Community mechanisms are far from perfect, but as we do not have others, we must consider them as the most advanced at this time.

A SWOT analysis of the Community spectrum can look like this:

#### **Strong points:**

- No politician, party or political stream will win

the absolute majority by promoting a secessionist speech.

- "Eurosceptic" can hope at the very least to participate as attachments of slightly fragile majorities.
- The application of the provisions of the Community Treaties has led to a uniform image of most of the fields of activity in the Member States. A return to national specificity would mean a regress that no Member State would assume.
- Britain's attitudes to expectation and isolationism are so well known that "Brexit" was nothing but a whim of a high-level lady who plays the incomprehensible genius. The ball is currently in the Chamber of Lords and British Government field (on 8 of June UK would have new elections), which may delay the UK's exit procedures in the European Union.
- The hard core of the EU family is formed by the France-Germany couple, which looks more solid than ever, after the victory of Emmanuel Macron.

#### **Weaknesses:**

- The opposition "federalism" vs. "Supranational body" continues to block elements essential to the sustainability of the European Union House, resulting in shortcomings such as the absence of a European Constitution, a European Army, a common foreign policy in the true sense of the word, national censorship of the internal economic situation before community bodies (Below the price).
- The inconsistency of a well-defined attitude towards the United States, the Russian Federation, the Asian Tigers and the Latin American states.
- The incoherence of the policy of full acceptance of "newcomers" vs. The attempt to "forced Europeanization" through emigrants, refugees from outside Europe (North Africa, Middle East) as an expression of the fragility of the Schengen area.
- Failure to meet the so-called "Schengen" criteria by Community countries outside of this space. The inability of Schengen Member States to meet the rigors set forth in these criteria.

#### **Opportunities:**

- In some EU countries, there is a spectrum of separatism within the state (Scotland, Northern Ireland in the UK, Catalonia, the Basque Country in Spain, Padania in Italy, Corsica in France) and the

rise of extremism (the French Front case ). It is precisely these threats that have the gift of determining the retention of states in the European Union.

- The "neo-revisionism" spectrum, inspired by similar ideologies from the first half of the last century, present in the political behavior of some countries like Turkey, Hungary or the Russian Federation, can lead to a strengthening of intra and extra-community relations.

- The existence of strategic partnership between NATO and the EU. The Euro is still a serious competitor for the US dollar, and the stagnation of the single currency adoption in other countries makes the Euro Zone an exclusive club. The US still needs the European Union in the historic dispute already enshrined in the Russian Federation.

Threats:

- Unjustified delays in reforming sensitive political areas.

- Differences of measure in the approach of intra and extra community problems.

- Lack of realism in designing, supervising and controlling the allocation and absorption mechanisms of EU funds by Member States.

- The failure of the policy to promote energy independence.

Twenty-eight years after Malta, the Russian Federation smiles shyly at the fairytale node, saying that without it, there is no peace in world. It is a bitter lesson that the European Union is now receiving at the threshold of spring. What will 2017 bring? Today we can see cooperation between Donald J Trump and Vladimir Putin. It will be organized a new "Malta" summit?

Will we get to see world leaders who say like Napoleon: "At Waterloo, we all have not done our duty?"

It's hard to give an answer now, when the nerves of Europeans are stretched to the maximum, and the supremacy of the "West", after Malta, seems to squeak as the suspension of a luxury car destroyed by the pits of the roads. In March 2018, the Russian Federation would have presidential elections and the actual president, Vladimir Putin recently announced that he would proclaim his candidature

for a new presidential mandate. It seems that he will be reelected with no major problems, his opponent Aleksei Navalnyi having a problem with his lack of popularity. In Russia, the democratic street movements are not popular, being considerate as a consequence of the „Imperial aggression against Russia”, a political thesis which lives from the „Cold War” period. In Germany, the „AfD” Party (followers of Neo-Nazis ideas) had reached the third position in the parliamentary elections of September 2017 and the actual Chancellor, Angela Merkel even she claimed the victory after the election, she has great problems in building a parliamentary majority in order to start without emotions the fourth mandate as German Chancellor.

Donald Trump was elected as US President and he took his position seriously, under the slogan „We will make America great again!” Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin continue the tradition of Malta conferences from 1989. They want a conditioned cooperation between „East” and „West” with the condition of stopping the NATO and EU advances towards Ukraine and former Soviet space.

Under these circumstances, we can say that the moment when the European Union starts to write its will is not yet arrived. The agenda for 2017-2018 is as burdensome as most of the problems in the past two years have not disappeared with the show of fireworks announcing the entry into the New Year.

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