

THE GEOPOLITICAL STATE OF THE EAST AND CENTRAL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES IN THE POST COMMUNIST STAGE

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The end of 1989 marked the beginning of a massive communist structure desintegration in Central and Eastern Europe. In spite of all endeavour of motivations and ideological constructions, in its ensemble, the economical framework was not able to keep pace with the European countries with tradition in market economy, as it is the case of the countries in the Western part of the continent.

With a demographical potential of almost 125 mil. inhabitants - 1989 123, 21 mil. inhabitants: Albania - 3,2 mil., Bulgaria - 8,99 mil., Czekoslovakia - 15,64 mil., Yugoslavia - 23,69 mil., Poland - 37,96 mil., Romania - 23,15 mil., Hungary - 10,58 mil., - the Central and East European countries, for almost half of a century had been a *buffer space* between Western Europe and the Soviet Empire, from the Baltic Sea to the Black Sea.

Being under the political, military and economical influence of the Soviet Union, this part of Europe represents the result of the two superpowers interests at the end of the Second World War, which were turned into facts by the creation of the two zones of influence, the Western part under American control and the Eastern part under Soviet control.

The *opening* initiated by Gorbachev had marked the beginning of the rapid failure of Communism as ideology and as an economical form of organization in the Central and East European countries.

The reorganization on the market economy principle and the crossing from a totalitarian structure to that of the state of rights found the Central and the East European countries in different economical stages of development. This is evident from the National Income per inhabitant:

| Country | N.I./inhab. 1989 |
|---------------|------------------|
| Albania | 800 |
| Bulgaria | 5350 |
| Czekoslovakia | 7260 |
| Yugoslavia | 2599* |
| Poland | 1740* |
| Romania | 4400 |
| Hungary | 2330 |

* (1988)

With all economical differentiations, the traditional phase has some common characteristics, such as:

- a. the transition from totalitarian structures to that of the state of rights was achieved - exception Romania - without significant acts of violence;
- b. the tendency to deny completely the former societies' structures in the context of a totalitarian policy;

- c. the appearance of a great number of political parties in comparison to the countries from the Western part of the continent;
- d. general economical decline, in conditions in which the economic role of the state was destroyed and the new economical structures are slowly being built;
- e. the tendency of a massive privatization of the IIIrd sector, in comparison with the Ist and the IInd sectors, producers of goods and generators of welfare;
- f. the appearance in its real form and dimension of the unemployment phenomena;
- g. the renunciation to the theoretical and national scientific capital in economy as well as in other fields and to a part of the established social values;
- h. massive emigrations, especially of the *brain-drain* type;
- i. the encouragement of the centripetal forces as well as of the centrifugal forces on the political arena, concerning the boundaries of the Central and the East European countries.

The tone of democratization given by Moscow was transmitted to the former satelits. The transfer of power had been realized - as it had been mentioned - without blood, exception being Romania.

Full of indoctrination and deprived of elementary democratic liberties, the societies from the Central and the Eastern part of the continent quickly and without discrimination started to deny the structure of Communism forgetting that within the framework of the former system there had flourished a series of eternal values having worldwide applicability.

At the same time with the dirty water from the basin the child was thrown, too.

Political parties appeared like mushrooms after rain, fact which can be explained by the long period of the impossibility to practise democratic rights and political opinions. At the same time, this fact reveals a massive division within the post-totalitarian societies.

The sudden weakening of the economical role of the state and of the supercentralized structures is marked by an economic decline in the absence of a rapid and efficient take-over of the economical level by private agents. To all these it must be added the acute lack of capital and the great external debts, contracted previously.

At the same time the worker's trade-union got unimaginable sizes tending to impose a new dictatorship of the proletariat by transparent implication of trade-unions in the political life.

The reduce private capital and the wish for a rapid profit had drawn to a massive privatization of IIIrd activities, especially from retail.

The actual mentality of the private enterpriser is dominated by the idea of quick and massive profit and less that of the success in business.

The hidden unemployment phenomena of the socialist economy started to manifest in its real form as a result of reshaping measures of production, according to its efficiency.

After destroying the totalitarian structures, the former socialist European countries tried to present themselves in a most favourable hypostasis in front of the "West" from where they hope to get salvation and welfare. Thus, the native intellectual capital has been and still is undervalued. On the background of economical decline and of social edging, the *brain-drain* process, rather expressive during totalitarism, is increasing.

Some centripetal forces were reaccelerated, leading to the appearance of false pretentions and pride among ethical minorities, fact which is translated by an amplified nationalist and extremist phenomenas in daily papers.

At the same time there were reaccelerated the centrifugal forces, more dangerous than the previous ones because of external supporters.

The enumerated news and phenomenas which now dominate the societies in the Central and the Eastern part of Europe have as an essential motivation the economical discrepancy between East and West. "Regional inequality in material well-being is the most salient centrifugal force in the modern world". (SHORT, 1982, quotation by P. TAYLOR, 1985, p. 114).

The annihilation of the centrifugal and the centripetal forces, both of them generators of unstable situations, cannot be realized - in my opinion - without a healthy anchoring of the East and the Central part of the continent to a modern market economy in which the regional and extraregional cooperation to be taken out of the Zero Sum Game, having as an end result the relative equalization of the economical levels of development. This could be the essential support of a graduate integration in the complex general European economy. The different levels of economical development of the Central and the East European countries claim differenciated efforts of mending from these states.

In our conception, nobody has to be carried to welfare. Neither is he to be cheated nor stained. From this results that "boundaries therefore are an essential element of the modern world.economy" (P. TAYLOR, 1985, p. 105).

The strengthening of each national economical compartment through their own efforts is a decisive step achieving the European Unity on condition that the great political and administrative diversity of the continent is respected. As Montesquieu said: "Europe is nothing else but a nation composed from several nations".

The chance of a United Europe in its great diversity, created at the end of the Second World War was wasted at the diplomatical games-table carried in the name of some mean interests, on the back of people from this part of the continent. Today, the chance of a United Europe has reappeared at a more encouraging size.

For the East and Central Europe, a region with which history was unfavourable and the sufferings were heavier and longer, the endeavour for welfare and liberty must not be hindered or stopped by encouraging violence and by the game of foreign interests to noble humane ideals. Still, we do not know for sure whether there will be another Stalin or Hitler.

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