

EUROPEAN EXCLUSIVISM FOR A PART OF EUROPE

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REZUMAT. Europa apare ca un spațiu marcat de diversitate, chiar dacă are trăsături comune importante. De la ce de-al doilea război mondial s-au format două blocuri economice (Piața Comună, Consiliul de ajutor economic mutual) și două blocuri militare (Pactul Nord - Atlantic și Tratatul de la Varșovia. Între puterile vestice, conduse de Germania, și Rusia, în est, s-a creat un spațiu tampon, de la nord la sud, de la Baltica la Mediterana, care acoperă aproximativ spațiul fostelor state comuniste europene. Caracteristicile principale ale acestui spațiu sunt: instabilitatea, incertitudinea și un nivel scăzut de viață. Dacă integrarea europeană este declarativă sau dacă are un termen de realizare nedefinit, "absorbția cul - de - sacu-ului european" prin imigrațiile asiatice, în drumul lor spre supraviețuire și spre o nouă identitate, devine o posibilitate. Trebuie să acceptăm faptul că migrațiile intercontinentale masive nu aparțin doar secolelor trecute. Într-un astfel de context, spațiul tampon european devine inefficient și nefuncțional.

CUVINTE CHEIE: Europa, bloc economic, bloc militar, spațiu tampon.

Europe represents for the whole world the radier nucleus of a civilization crystallized for millenaries on this space. Taking into account the physical limits of the continent, two states - Russia and Turkey - belong territorially also to Asia, although rheir major interests are orientated towards Europe. Including these states, Europe has 45 political-administrative entities as states, that represent almost 25% (23,4%) of world's total present states.

Europe asserted itself early, due to the influence it exercised upon the world civilization. One of the most significant influences lies in the fact that the languages of wide international recognition (the official languages) are of European origin. These languages were imposed beginning with the colonial period, that actually led to world domination by the great European powers of those times. So we assist as early as the beginning of the feudal order's falling pieces at the outlining of two major orientations of the general evolution at the continental level. One the one hand the west of the continent, sustained by the great geographical discoveries began to conquer the world, laying down early the foundation of economic prosperity, ensuring at least two cardinal factors:

- abundant and cheap raw materials;
- labour force with the same features.

For almost five centuries "The New World" was "modelled" to respoud efficiently and promptly to the prosperity needs of Western Europe.

Meanwhile in the centre, and especially in the east of the continent, the nations sacrificed their energies and creative abilities in bloody and exhausting defence battles against migratory people from the east.

Then, the imperial oppression (Russian, Hapsburgic and Ottoman) very often associated with convulsions and internal rivalries, filled the glass of suffering for the nations in this part of Europe. Whereas in the west the battles were fought for supremacy, the people in the east and centre fought to survive.

Thus quite an early stage two major geo--political segments within the continent were outlined: the western one, marked by a rapid evolution of economic and technological life and the eastern one, that remained for a long time at the plough civilization. This divergent evolution had a great impact upon the further circumstances of European nations.

The actual geo-political space is characterized by many common features and at the same time by an expressive variety. Thus, the ethnogenesis of the most European people was realized within the physical frame of the continent. Except for the people with Ugric-Finnic origin, all the others were left in the space bordered on the Atlantic, the Russian Plain, the North Cape and the Matapan Cape. Some of the allochthonous people integrated harmoniously into the new physical frame and afterwards into the geo-political one (Finns) while others (Hungarians) have not found their place and balance for almost 1 000 years in the adoptive space of Europe.

Another common aspect consists in the domination of the white race, Europa being the continent well known from its racial homogeneousness point of view. However, the defining characteristic of Europe relies on its great variety. We meet here the largest geo-political continental variety, related to its area. This variety emerges from the following facts:

- multistateliness;
- multinationality;
- religious diversity;
- cultural diversity;
- economic blocks and different rates of development;
- opposite military blocks.

Presently, Europe has 45 states, 138.441 km² of the territory being allotted to every single state (except for Russia and Turkey).

The multitude of interests in the European space is associated with multinationality. About 400 nationalities are living today on the continent, numerically variable, originating all over the world.

It is very interesting to notice that in the western part of the continent, the block idea has developed, in spite of the national diversity, while in the central and eastern parts, the result was an excessive territorial falling into parts, strongly increased after the fall of the communist system.

The number of neighbours grew and their economic and demographic potential was inevitably altered. The very equilibrium imposed by the presence of the "iron curtain" as

well as the tanging up to the same political system was rather disturbed.

The people of Europe are entirely monotheist Christians (except for some minority groups originating in other continents) though "lined up" to two big religious blocks - Catholic and Orthodox - which throughout centuries have unfortunately generated and maintained presently a great deal of hotbeds of conflict on the continental area. In Bosnia-Hertegovina the battles are fought in order to install the supremacy of the cross or of the half moon, of Orthodoxy, Catholicism or Islamism.

The rivalry between the popish centre of Vatican and that of Orthodoxy generated more zonal conflicts as compared to those resulted from economic and ideological rivalry.

The cultural diversity of the continent may easily constitute one of the premises which can positively catalyse the future evolution of European people. Four major hotbeds of culture with deep roots in the ancient world, the Anglo-Saxon and Russian culture. Until 1965 the former communist countries in the west and east of Europe were deeply anchored in the girths of Sovietic culture since communist ideology was the only accepted cultural source of inspiration.

After 1965 has turned its face towards the national in the above mentioned countries, thereby expressing veiled or direct critics against the totalitar regims. It is the beginning of cultural desidence which would last until 1989, after which the initial point of an opening towards universality made itself relevant.

The ways of cultural penetration and osmose at the continental level, among which that of the study of acknowledged classics (Byron, Shakespeare, Goethe, Schiller, Puskin, Lermontov, Zolla, Voltaire) were obtruded at a great extent on ideological criteria.

The most appropriate link necessary to a cultural structured coagulation at the continental level has not been found yet. The culture remains further on deeply rooted in the national pattern.

Regarded from an economical point of view, the European countries range over a wide palette concerning their degree of development. Thus on top of this hierarchy we find Monaco with 51 000 \$ GIP/inhabitant/year, followed by Switzerland and Lichtenstein (over 30 000\$ GIP/inh./year, Norway, Germany and Finnland over 22 000\$ GIP inh./year. The last places are taken by Albania (735\$), Makedonia (1400\$), Poland (1600\$) and Romania (1640\$). The countries of the former communist lager with the exception of Croatia, Slovenia and Sovietic Baltik Republics, have a gross internal product/inhabitant/year, under 5 000\$.

Closely related to the different ideological nature in which these European people evolved within the last 50 years, two main economic blocks have come into being CAER (1952), which brought their contribution to the increase of the continental division. This reached its apogee at the same time with the constitution of the two military blocks - NATO (1949) and The Treaty of Warsaw (1955). All these associations and successions of facts reveal, if necessary, that Europe in its evolution did not have the capacity and

willingness to find the solution of general positive evolution at the continental level.

East and west evolved rather divergently than convergently. Within the big continental diversity, ideology, supported by military power, created rather artificial barriers instead of most natural links among people. The people of the continent did not have the chance to know each other. The access of the average citizen to the west was a real adventure. Even those asked to lay the bases of cultural and scientific collaboration were not deprived of emotions and all kind of obstacles. We shall further on expose the sample of the "filtering model" to which a potential participant to a scientific manifestation in the west from Romania could be submitted. he should first of all possess a nominal invitation from the organizers with the specification that all the taxes related to the future manifestation are supported by the organizers. Then followed the channel, which took a long time, approximately ten months, of the approval of the local political and administrative forums, of the county and national forums (see fig. 1). Those who could get those filters of party bureaucracy were considered "people with connections". At their return (those who did turn) were treated with manifest envy at their working places. It was not advisable to expose your impressions openly. In west, the person who had access, was generally welcomed with great sympathy and affection for being able to break the "iron curtain". After 1989 all the citizens got a passport, the very material symbol of a life long ideal - the liberty to travel. However, the happiness did not last long. Quickly enough a blockade on behalf of the west was

installed, more efficient than that imposed by the totalitarian system (fig. 2).

Only the gypsies can break this barrier and they are represented by the western mass media as models of the countries they come from.

The description of the east or of a part of it is obviously done according to the level at which the changes take place, and conjunctural situations in which different interhuman contacts are established. Generally at the level of formal contacts, the reality is perceived in an atmosphere characterized by positive intentions and declarations.

However, the mass media means of the west generally present the most negative images of the east, extrapolating through comments which regard it as a defining characteristic of the countries in question. We thus notice on behalf of the western societies a certain exclusiveness phenomenon, which together with that of the divergent evolution in the political, economical, ideological, religious and military field, proliferate in the central and eastern part of the continent a "barrier", directed towards north-south, from the Baltic Sea to the Mediterranean Sea. Paradoxically, the western Europe is rather perceived as being Arabic, Turkish, Pakistani or Indian by the people from the eastern part of the continent belonging to the former communist block.

The modern stage of the states on this continent was defined by the clash of interests between Russia and Germany, becoming a discord apple at the continental level. Between the two great powers a "manoeuvre space" was interposed,

bearing the character of a buffer continuously seeking an identity and equilibrium (fig. 3).

The main dimension characterizing the life of the people within this territory is a lower standard of life and uncertainty. Almost 200 million people (197 800 000) out of the 18 states constituting the buffer space (39.5% of the continent's population) were not and are not safe.

Almost always and without exception, they were submitted to the external interests of the powerful states. The people living here did not know real freedom, material prosperity and the feeling of safety, whereas in the west, quite next to them, life has known other dimensions.

Unfortunately Europe functioned and is still functioning with people of the first and the second category.

people have a double territorial predestination - one according to its physical frame and the other one regarding its neighbours. The physical space of the west (Atlantic, Alpic, Iberic, Scandinavian) has a manifest vocation for opening and at the same time for sheltering whereas the Baltic, Carpathic, Danubian, Pontic and Balcanic is kept tight within the physical forces of the western space and the Euro-Asiatic plain. It represents the first obstacle in the east and it is in this direction that kept the migratory people gravitating throughout history in their attempt to conquer the continent. The resistance of the people inhabiting this space did not allow the extension of migrations towards the centre and west of Europe. Physical space is said to be a gift from God and the neighbours are told to be a gift from angels. Since between neighbours always do break out conflictual states, it means

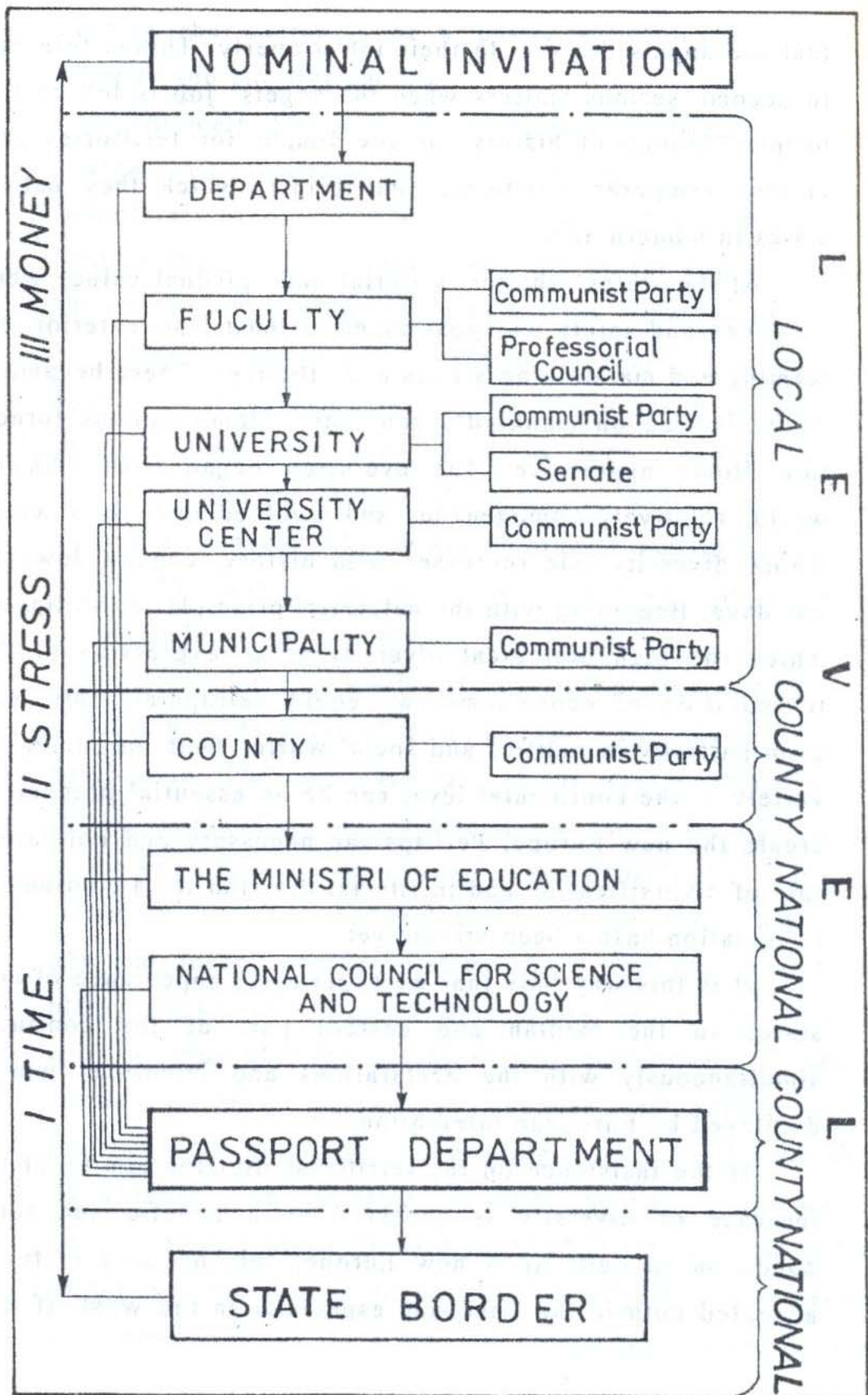


FIG. 1

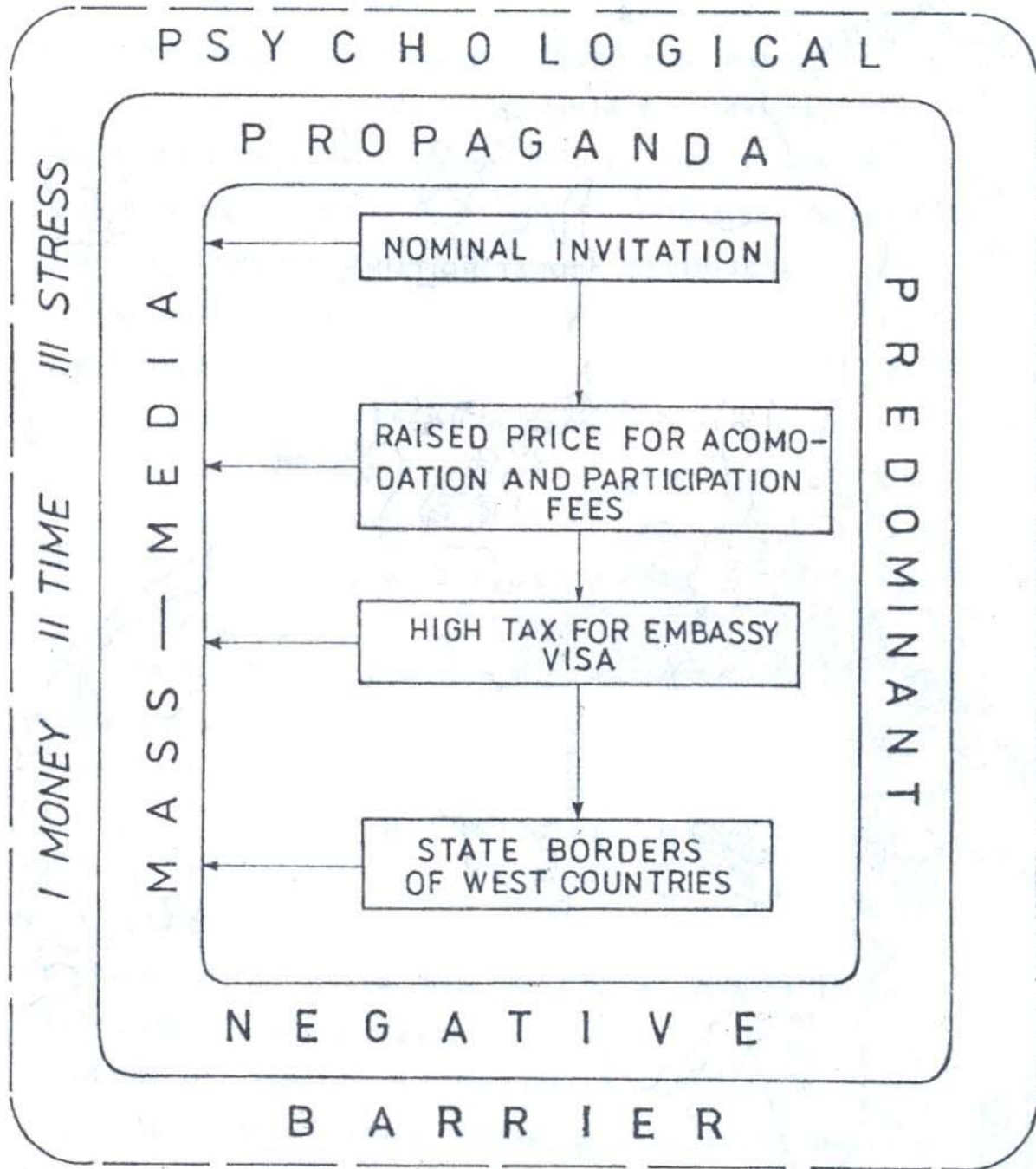
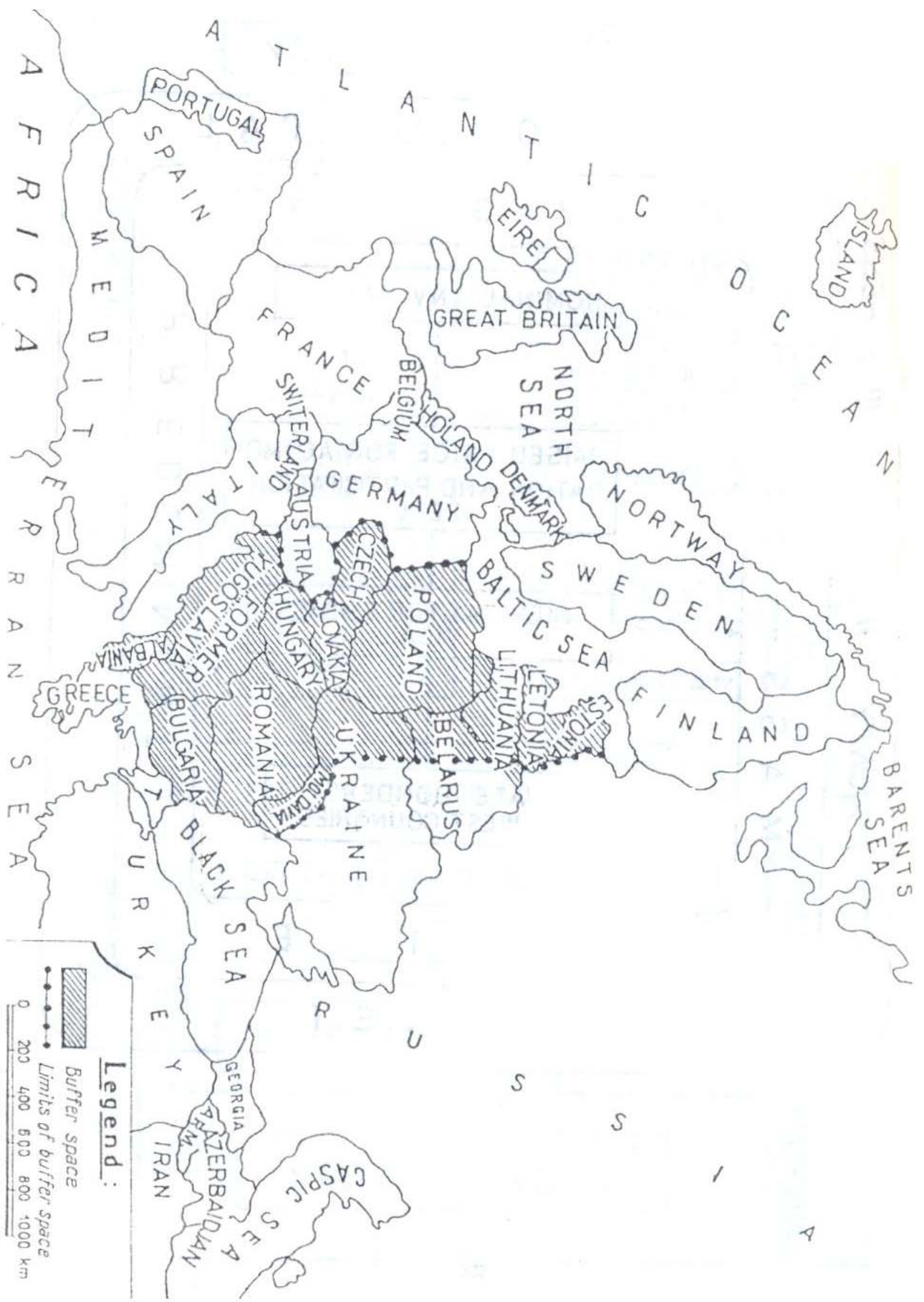


Fig. 2.



sustained by and applied only to a part (the East) then it should be viewed with restraint and legitimate anxiety.

The power centres of the world are changing. A non-integrated Europe will not be able to face a new wave of migrations from east with all its military arsenal and strategical position. Europe has now - according to my opinion - the chance to choose the integration and enlightening of a new lasting civilization pattern, the most fortified and flexible from all that has been known in history.

The exclusivism and the restoration of the "iron curtain" in a more refined manner would be another way.

This would stimulate, sooner or later, the entrance of Asia in Europe, and not the European integration.

The bridgehead is always built and it already lies west of the continent.

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