

Reflections on the Phenomenon of Globalization, from the Perspective of the Impact on Current Society

Cătălin PEPTAN

„Constantin Brâncuși” University of Târgu-Jiu, Târgu-Jiu, Romania

Abstract: *The beginning of the 21st century coincides with the beginning of a historical period of a new type, as complex as it is complicated, generating a reconfiguration of the entire global architecture. The new reality and the evolution of all societies are part of the process of globalization. Phenomenon, ideology, strategy, or a mix of them, globalization characterizes, in today's world, the intensified interactions between people and market integration activities, all with results that generate changes in political, economic, technological or cultural due to the disappearance of the classical barriers, drawn by state borders.*

At the time of this research, globalization is considered the main „architect” on the international security agenda, with a major impact on the evolution of international relations; on the one hand, it generates and accelerates the broad development of productive forces and involves scientific and technical progress worldwide, emphasizes contacts and interstate collaboration, entailing joint efforts to maintain and develop international security, and, on the other hand, it produces devastating effects in terms of security, by creating favorable conditions for the proliferation of asymmetric and unconventional threats and risks, such as the unprecedented manifestation of major forms of transnational organized crime (arms trafficking and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, drug trafficking, human trafficking, illegal migration), the virulent manifestation of the terrorist phenomenon in increasingly diverse areas, the resuscitation of chronic local and regional phenomena that are fueled by ethnic and religious extremism, the amplification of social unrest, border crises and tensions between nation states.

Being a constantly evolving phenomenon, it is hard to anticipate the final result of this process. The only certainty is that globalization is becoming an essential factor in the international security equation, even in the context in where its impact on the evolution of relations between states is contradictory.

Keywords: globalization, security, society, democracy, nation, identity, threat.

1. General considerations with regard to the globalization process

At present, the issue of globalization is almost indispensable in the rhetorical arsenal used in most specialized debates. We can note that this issue has become of interest not only in academic/professional environments but also in the area of everyday life, of the international collective mind, which is quite remarkable if we consider the mechanisms of proliferation of ideas on a large scale. The explanation for this state of affairs has at least two coordinates: on the one hand the conceptual amplitude¹ of the issue of globalization; on the other hand, its ability to re-signify itself in the long run, keeping its freshness of nuances and, implicitly, the slogan resonance² at the level of the collective mind. The concept of globalization represents the general discursive hypostasis of an essentially very complex phenomenon. The temptation of generalizations starts from a logic that favors the simplified interpretation of globalization seen as a linear

¹ This conceptual scope includes the so-called dimensions of globalization: economic, political, social, cultural, military, etc. (N / A.).

² There are some theorists who claim that globalization became a slogan in the 1990s, as did the term "interdependence" in the 1970s. Cf. Joseph S. Nye Jr., John D. Donahue (Editors), *Governance in a Globalizing World*, Washington DC, Brookings Institution Press, 2000, p. 1.

process, from the particular to the universal³, and from the claim of the dominance of the economic factor, especially in the more recent phases. At the same time, not enough emphasis is placed on the historical determinants that form the basis of what we might call proto-globalization (early globalization). Admitting that we use the term globalization in its form of „umbrella concept” meant to cover as wide an area of meanings as possible, it becomes very necessary that, at least in a synthetic form, we present the dialectics of this phenomenon in its recent meanings. In this sense, the conceptual tandem of globalism versus globalization is worth discussing. Globalism is the phenomenon itself, that is what public opinion sees and feels based on more or less mediated experiences. We might think, at first glance, that globalism is an invention of modernity, but it has deep historical roots and has evolved with varied intensities over time⁴. It is precisely this indicator of its intensity, the way in which it has expanded and contracted (under certain historical conditions) that could be called globalization. Thus, globalization (and de-globalization) is less the phenomenon itself (about which public opinion speaks, by overlapping it on the idea of globalism) but rather the way in which the phenomenon as a whole increases and decreases, picks up speed or is restrained as a result of historical conditioning.

Globalization is a reality today and, although there is not yet a universally accepted and probably not accepted definition from a conceptual point of view, most experts consider it as a process of permanent integration of countries around the world through various ways of interaction, a need and a practice specific to man as a social being, eager to meet new people and places, to exchange ideas and goods, always looking for opportunities.

Globalization is an operational concept used especially when we refer to economic and social reconfiguration, as a direct result of the intensification of international trade activities, but also of cultural exchanges. From this perspective, globalization is a multicausal process because the sphere of propagation and influence is not territorially limited, a series of events that take place in a certain geographical area can generate unexpected effects on societies that lie on other coordinates of the world.

As we have already noted, globalization is a complex process, the term itself being extremely used, it appears in different contexts and is used for different purposes, we find it as a concern of some disciplines or as a priority on the political agenda, interpretations and meanings are so different that they can lead to the ambiguity of the lexeme and the concept.⁵ As it fundamentally influences the dynamics and rhetoric of the internal life and of foreign policy of state institutional actors, being at the same time a generator of sociological, economic and psychological consequences, globalization is approached distinctly by different entities, precisely because a universal approach would be elusive, and each organizational component could interpret it according to its own goals, prejudices and particularities.

³ See the correlation with the notions of globalization or internationalization (n.a.).

⁴ Cf. Joseph S. Nye Jr., John D. Donahue (Editors), *Governance in a Globalizing World*, p. 7.

⁵ Douglas, Kellner, *Globalization and the Postmodernism Turn*, available at http://www.arabphilosophers.com/English/discourse/east-west/Globalization/Globalization_and_the_postmodern_turn.pdf, accessed on 30. 07. 2020.

If we start from the premise that goods trade in and capital flows were some of the first forms of human interaction on a global scale, we can consider globalization as the process of „achieving a world-wide market, (...) as a result of leveling consumer needs and product standardization in conjunction with the ongoing development of communications and the media”.⁶

Ideologists of globalization, referring to the cultural and identity dimension, define this process as an existential state of humanity, in a continuous evolution, which contributes to the development of peaceful dialogue between the multiple entities of civilizational identities.

We can say that globalization is a process in which different societies, cultures and economies have been integrated into a global network through trade and communication, achieving the integration of national or regional economies in the international economy.

Globalization is, however, a multidimensional phenomenon. In a much more complex sense, beyond the dimensions listed above, globalization is a state of affairs, a „way or a system of reception and long-term approach to major contemporary problems, determined by the interaction of multiple economic, technical, political, social, cultural and ecological processes and phenomena”.⁷ Globalization most often refers to the international circulation of goods, but entails the international circulation of ideas, information and culture. At the level of general perception, globalization receives different „labels” - imperialism, cosmopolitanism, anarchism, internationalization or globalization - but globalization is more than modernization⁸, it is rather westernization or universalization.

From a sociological perspective, globalization represents „compressing the world and raising awareness of the world as a whole”, all states of the world forming a network in which connections of a political, economic or technological nature, and the interactions generated between them promote and accelerate the process of globalization. In addition, the intradependence of the three levels cancels out classic borders, political, social, economic or technological barriers.¹⁰

Through its universal character, globalization leaves its mark on all components of the global social system, affecting the structure of different subsystems - political, economic, military, religious, ecological, technological etc, so that, starting from this premise, we find the so-called individualizations of globalization in accordance with the descriptive items listed above.

It is obvious that globalization is not spread evenly and does not have a unitary character in relation to the way of propagation and manifestation, in the context of the current world system formed by a „mosaic” of states characterized by inequalities, economically and technologically advanced countries being much more receptive and

⁶ Ion, A. Popescu, Aurelian, A. Bondrea, Mădălina, I. Constantinescu, *Globalization, myth and reality*, Bucharest, Economic Publishing House, 2004, p. 101.

⁷ Niță, Dobrotă (coord.), *Dictionary of Economics*, Bucharest, Economic Publishing House, 1999, p. 228-229.

⁸ Andrei, Marga, *Current Metanarratives. Modernization, Development, Globalization*, Cluj-Napoca, Ecou Transilvan Publishing House, 2014, p. 88-94.

⁹ Roland, Roberson, *Globalization: Social Theory and Global Culture*, Sage Publication Ltd, London, 1992, p. 8

¹⁰ Anthony, Giddens, *Consecințele modernității*, Bucharest, Univers Publishing House, 2001, p. 64.

„Reflections on the Phenomenon of Globalization, from the Perspective of the Impact on Current Society,” *Astra Salvensis*, VIII (2020), no. 16, p. 315-337.

more interested in implementing globalization at the global level. On the other hand, globalization has a different impact on state entities that are faced with both the inability to optimally manage the intensity and volume of flows of people, capital and information passing through their own geographical areas, as well as particular problems in maintaining political sovereignty under the pressure of multiple factors with different causalities.

Simultaneously with the spread of democratic regimes, the effects of the globalization process registered a special dynamic, being received differently: some state entities accepted it and others fought against it, but overall, a new transnational and global form of government was generated.¹¹ Freed from the corset of bipolarity, within which the decisions were made according to the conjunctural interests of the two actors of the power centers, globalization produced beneficial effects by generating a security climate totally different from the classic, by taking a new approach.¹² Given the non-linear developments and even the situations of chaos in the most unexpected places, globalization has meant the coagulation of regional structures of government that revolve around those state entities recognized as „core states” of regional civilizations. It should be noted that this accelerated process of integrating separate nation-states into new political and economic entities on a regional or global scale should not automatically be seen as a process of mandatory integration of all states in the world into a single world society.¹³

Today's society, on a planetary scale, is characterized by a contradictory situation, in dynamics, in a constant change and with a different and unequal evolution; while some states are a model of democracy, that show interest and respect for human values and have a high degree of economic development, others are characterized by totalitarian regimes, are poorly developed economically and are poles of poverty, which turns them into a favorable ground for the manifestation of dictatorships and the coagulation of organized crime and terrorism groups, considered to be germs of insecurity and uncertainty at the societal level.

The situations mentioned above show that the phenomenon of globalization has multiple consequences, which is why we consider it necessary to know and understand the benefits and problematic aspects generated by the globalization process, as well as the interactions or conditionalities between them, such behavior must be a constant concern of national and / or international institutions empowered to ensure the favorable framework for meeting the needs of citizens in a climate of individual and collective

¹¹ Jurgen, Habermas, *The Postnational Constellation: Political Essays*, Trans. and ed. by Max Pensky, Cambridge, MIT Press, 2001, p.66.

¹² Adrian, Casian, *The impact of globalization on the international security system*, Bulletin of the National Defense University "Carol I", September, 2015, p. 210.

¹³ Adam, Lupel, *Regionalism and globalization: post-nation or extended nation?*, Polity, 36(2), 2004, p. 156, available at https://www.ipinst.org/images/pdfs/lupel_polity_jan2004.pdf, accessed on 01. 07. 2020.

security, otherwise new risks, dangers and threats to the stability of the security equation may arise.¹⁴

2. Problematic aspects generated by the globalization process

Beyond the indisputable advantages of the globalization process, we consider it auspicious to make a review of some aspects that are less favorable or that do not bring benefits to today's society. First, globalization, that knows forms of manifestation without a direct collective influence of the world community, may aggravate older international security problems, but, moreover, may generate other problems, challenges or risks that can affect societal life at the regional or global level. Secondly, globalization can generate unexpected devastating effects, which the literature brings together in the category of asymmetric, unconventional threats and risks: global expansion of transnational organized crime (arms trafficking, drug trafficking, human trafficking), reactivation of chronic local and regional phenomena such as social unrest, border crises or interstate conflicts, encouraging the production of weapons of mass destruction, radicalization of forms of fanaticism (ethnic, religious), perpetuation of the terrorist phenomenon in various forms, from classical to new ones (electronic, chemical, biological and nuclear).¹⁵

Referring to the issue of cross-border organized crime, Yury Fedotov, UNODC Executive Director, in October 2018 reiterated that the international community faces a diverse range of facts associated with this scourge of today's society, emphasizing the role and need to streamline the main global instruments to act against organized crime, in the context of increasing their capacity for transnational operational coordination and the adoption of innovative measures to elude justice.¹⁶

Although they have globally representative, the peculiarities of the European continent make the threats associated with organized crime acquire a particular virulence under the roller coaster of globalization. The head of the European Center for Organized Crime at Europol, Jari Liukku, in April 2019, considered organized crime to be „the highest risk to the European Union's internal security”, while other senior Europol officials supported the idea that extreme violence generated by the manifestation of organized crime „represents the greatest threat to Europe's security, far surpassing terrorism and migration”.¹⁷ Aware of the danger posed by transnational organized crime, the European Council has appointed a set of ten priorities for the period 2018-2021¹⁸, each of which has been allocated an operational action plan to help limit security effects.

The phenomenon of globalization also presents a series of problematic aspects, most of which appeared as a result of the nature of the process, defined as uncontrolled, unconduted, uncontrolled, unconduted, uncontrolled. In the absence of coherent political control, globalization can generate economic chaos and ecological or humanitarian disasters in many parts of the

¹⁴ Iurie, Richicinschi, *The impact of globalization on the current security environment*, Institutional Repository of the Academy of Public Administration, Public Administration, no. 3, 2019, pp. 112, available at <http://dspace.aap.gov.md>, accessed on 01. 07. 2020.

¹⁵ *Ibidem*, pp. 112 – 113.

¹⁶ <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/about-unodc/annual-report.html>, accessed on 14. 09. 2020.

¹⁷ https://www.dcnews.ro/europol-crima-organizata-principala-amenintare-la-adresa-securitatii-europene_648425.html;

¹⁸ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/infographics/organized-crime>, accessed on 30. 07. 2020.

„Reflections on the Phenomenon of Globalization, from the Perspective of the Impact on Current Society,” *Astra Salvensis*, VIII (2020), no. 16, p. 315-337.

world, especially if we take into account the fact that at the global level there are a number of phenomena of fragmentation and weakening of social cohesion.¹⁹ Francis Fukuyama said that „the lack of state capacity in poor countries has come to haunt the developed world after the end of the Cold War, in the 1990s, the collapse or weakness of some states are already causing major humanitarian disasters”.²⁰ The crises in Kosovo, Somalia, Bosnia and Herzegovina or the political, economic and military conflict in Ukraine are other eloquent examples of this.

The planetary political and social life has undergone profound changes as a result of the process of globalization, the best known being related to the deterioration of income distribution and the generation or deepening of financial and economic crises, all producing negative effects on the quality of life as a whole. Experts in the analysis of the globalization process say that the progress generated in various fields is unevenly distributed on a global level and that it is very possible that economic and social structures that do not adapt to the process as soon as possible will go through periods of political and social tensions, which will cause major conflicts. In this context, individual or collective entities, which will feel wronged for various reasons (political, economic, social, cultural or otherwise), could resort to various means of protest, according to „successful examples” registered in various regions of the world, because access to information is facilitated by an essential pillar of globalization, modern technologies and access to them.²¹ The European crisis of the last two years seems to be the most eloquent example. Poor management of the problems facing the Member States of the European Union increases the distrust of the political elites, which are increasingly unable to meet the demands to initiate the structural reforms claimed by civil society, which has accumulated a high degree of frustration. With France - crushed by street movements stemming from the imperative need for reforms to revive its own economy marked by a level of unemployment double to that of Germany and almost unbearable public spending - under the still hard-to-quantify effects of a Brexit already materialized, and subject to centrifugal pressures, the European Union is „at acute risk of collapse and disintegration”.²²

In the above mentioned context, the authorities of nation states, but also international bodies, face a reality and a challenge at the same time, namely the identification of action to reduce sources of weakening social cohesion, annihilating the possible feeling of frustration of groups and communities, so as to put an end to the misunderstandings between the various antagonistic entities that may be sources of conflict.

From the perspective of the nationalist approach, it is estimated that globalization is the main cause of increasing economic inequalities between state entities, it has led to

¹⁹ Vasile, Popa, *The Implications of Globalization on National Security*, “Carol I” National Defense University Publishing House, Bucharest, 2005, p. 14.

²⁰ Francis, Fukuyama, *State Building. The world order in the 21st century*, Bucharest, Antet Publishing House, 2004, p.6.

²¹ Gabriel, Gabor, *Globalization's evolution and its effects*, Bulletin of “Carol I” National Defence University, No. 2/2012, p. 10.

²² <https://www.dw.com/ro/europa-%C5%9Fi-riscul-dezintegr%C4%83rii/a-46699175>, accessed on 30.07.2020.

rising unemployment in industrialized economies with the implementation of modern technologies, and is a source of effects with serious consequences in terms of social protection and led to increased instability of national economies as a result of the fierce international competitiveness it has enhanced. These multiple problematic issues will irreparably affect most national political autonomies, by metamorphosing specific cultures, which have lost ground in favor of Western culture, which has taken over most geographical areas, or on the other hand, will be able to amplify the revengeful feelings of poor countries towards everything that is assimilated to the phenomenon of globalization and the western world.

The role of the nation-state in the context of globalization has eroded and diminished continuously. Against this background, nationalist discourse has reappeared in various parts of the world and has gained critical accents concerning globalization. In Europe, it is based on a narrative in which Euroscepticism prevails, as an argument in favor of increased sovereignty of the nation-state. On the other hand, the speech of the American president Donald Trump is distinguished by nationalist accents, due to the anti-system rhetoric and isolationist one, which puts the interests of the United States of America before the global commitments. Under these conditions, it is stated, perhaps even rightly, that „globalization has become a religion that has been left without a church”.²³

Trends of uniformity, erasure of national identities, or damage to the traditional characteristics of civilizational entities, as a result of the process of globalization, cause many of the world's states to oppose Western civilization intrinsically assimilated to globalization, which Samuel Huntington himself said that „it was and still is aggressive”. On the other hand, the followers of globalization are of the opinion that the world of the future will manifest itself more and more strongly at the level of all the constitutive elements (locality, region, nation-state), which will be in an ample process of deindividuation, without being affected by the defining features with a civilizational substratum, which will make the problems they will face, once seen as particular problems, become global and social problems that require an integrative, collective solution. It must be borne in mind, however, that the identity and cultural particularities of the constituent elements listed above constitute a right whose non-recognition or alteration, by the specificities of the mechanisms of the globalization process, will lead to the loss of its essence.

The major transformations that characterize contemporary society, rightly considered as defining results of the phenomenon of globalization, have often generated the right framework for manifesting new risks and threats - nonclassical - to social security. A strong point of globalization is considered free access to the range of technological services, which are now available to all citizens of the planet, the easy use of virtual media representing their daily behaviors. However, the reverse of the situation must also be admitted, technology and free access to it can sometimes be a weapon of evil. Cyber attacks, which cause serious dysfunctions to government or private institutions, especially banking systems and computer systems in the field of critical

²³ Mircea, Udrescu, *The failure of globalization and the risks to European and world security*, Journal of Military Sciences, Nr. 2/2020, p. 97.

„Reflections on the Phenomenon of Globalization, from the Perspective of the Impact on Current Society,” *Astra Salvensis*, VIII (2020), no. 16, p. 315-337.

infrastructure, are just some of the facets of the problems posed by the development and uncontrolled use of technology.²⁴ Under the impetus of globalization, the world will become, at least in the medium term, a space for the manifestation of interconnected risks and threats as a result of the exponential development of technology, their effects being found in increasing complexity, uncertainty and volatility of the global environment security.

Referring to the danger of cyber attacks, Craig Jones, director of INTERPOL's IT division, argued in February 2020 that there was a need for a statewide approach of some measures to „risk mitigation and minimization of cyber attacks from all directions”.²⁵ Information networks, increasingly widespread on a global scale, in addition to the indisputable technical performances they enhance, almost without temporal or spatial limitation, are vectors of propagation of behavioral ways and even a form of mass culture, prefabricated, uniformed and standardized by the canons of collective acceptability imposed by globalization.

Viewed as a complex phenomenon that affects almost every state in the world, globalization has special implications for social security. Starting from the multiple interdependencies between the various state entities and taking into account the effects generated by the liberalization of global flows of goods, services, capital and information - each element has its own vulnerabilities, thus, we can say that globalization leads to interference of internal and external risks, a context in which new solutions are needed to manage threats to the security equation at the state or global level.

On the other hand, globalization has led to vulnerabilities, including among the state's means of exercising power, and has contributed to the diminishing legitimacy of the state towards its own citizens, who no longer express their loyalty to the state and the nation with the same zeal.²⁶ Globalization reduces the ability to exercise political power over the areas in which multinational companies or supranational institutions operate, leading, in practice, to the gradual but continuous loss of state control and even the voluntary renunciation of its monopoly on some aspects of national sovereignty.

Social tensions are inherent in such a context, and can affect political stability and societal cohesion, being augmented by other forms of insecurity or conflict for which globalization is „responsible”. The phenomenon of globalization, in itself, can be considered one of the causes of the increase of transnational crime and the amplification of terrorism, because the consequences produced at the societal level accentuate economic inequalities, thus generating the interest of individual or collective entities, some with state representation, to join, support or engage in such criminal acts.

A statistical analysis of terrorist acts initiated globally, in the period 2011-2015, when there was a maximum of the global terrorist phenomenon, shows that approximately 82% of them are found on the continent of Asia and North Africa, 12% in Sub-Saharan Africa, while on the continents of Europe and America there were 5%,

²⁴ Ionel-Lucian, Sandu, *The influence of the globalization phenomenon on interstate crises and international mediation as a solution to conflict prevention*, in the Journal of Military Sciences, no. 1, 2015, p. 111.

²⁵ <https://www.interpol.int/News-and-Events/News/2020/INTERPOL-report-highlights-key-cyberthreats-in-Southeast-Asia>, accessed on 10. 08. 2020.

²⁶ Eric, Hobsbawm, *Globalization, Democracy and Terrorism*, Bucharest, Cartier Publishing House, 2016. p. 37.

respectively less than 2% of the total globally. Similar percentages characterize the period 2016-2018, in a context in which the total number of terrorist attacks decreased by about 40% globally.²⁷ It can be concluded that the terrorist phenomenon has manifested itself mainly in geographical areas characterized by a deficit of democracy, authoritarian regimes and serious social problems, where the positive effects of globalization have not yet left their mark in a consistent manner. Seen as a force for intensifying „the evil”, globalization has been exploited by some terrorist leaders, such as Osama bin Laden, to coagulate terrorist groups assimilated to transnational religious entities to oppose the effects of today's secular globalization, which is so harmful for the Islamic space.

The diversification and intensification of antisocial activities, determined by the exponential growth of flows of people, goods and information, in the last three decades, when humanity has witnessed the exponential spread of globalization processes, has given an international dimension to the phenomenon of corruption, which led to it being considered a real scourge of society. At the end of 2019, Ylva Johansson, Commissioner for Home Affairs of the European Commission, said: „Corruption undermines democracy and the rule of law, the foundation of our societies. Over time, its influence increases inequality and undermines social cohesion. (...) We will continue to work with national authorities, international organizations, civil society and the private sector to eradicate corruption”.²⁸ The rise to alarming levels of international corruption is generating global economic instability.

There are opinions of some specialists who consider that globalization, in its current form, has not contributed to the development of poor states, but accordingly, is the main factor of their marginalization, due to the diminished degree of their participation in what we generically call global trade, or due to the limited possibilities of access to the mechanisms of the international financial market.

Another characteristic of the globalization process is the extension of the migration phenomenon of the population from poor to developed countries, in subsidiary being an export of culture and civilization, a phenomenon that in the medium and long term can definitely influence the characteristics of social life in certain areas around the globe. The European continent has been facing an almost uncontrollable wave of illegal migration in the last decade, especially from the Islamic area, becoming an attractive destination not necessarily due to its economic size, but its permissiveness to remain on the continent in the context of promoting permissive welfare policies in most Western European states. Although Japan or China have much stronger economies than any European country, due to the discouraging policies they have not faced the issue of mass immigration, proving that, even in the context of globalization, this process of migration „is not inevitable”.²⁹ The United States has taken much more restrictive

²⁷ <https://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/access/accesed> 30. 07. 2020. According to the presented data, globally a total number of 47347 initiated terrorist acts were registered in the period 2011-2015, respectively 27474 in the period 2016-2018.

²⁸

https://ec.europa.eu/romania/news/20191209_ziua_internationala_antikoruptie_flash_eurobarometer_ro, accessed on 30. 07. 2020.

²⁹ Douglas, Murray, *The Strange Suicide of Europe. Immigration, Identity, Islam*, Bucharest, Corinth Books, 2019, p. 87-88.

„Reflections on the Phenomenon of Globalization, from the Perspective of the Impact on Current Society,” *Astra Salvensis*, VIII (2020), no. 16, p. 315-337.

measures, if we refer only to the much criticized wall on the border with Mexico. In addition to the incalculable effects of changing the civil and cultural parameters of the old continent, practically witnessing a process of rapid Islamization of Western European countries³⁰, the financial effort needed to support and integrate migrants is a burden on Europe's budget. Even before the great wave of immigrants in the middle of the current decade, German Chancellor Angela Merkel stated that Europe „has to finance 50% of global social expense”, in the context in which the continent's population represents only 7% of the world and Europe produces about 25% of global Gross Domestic Product.³¹ Current realities are much harsher...

In the context of the migration phenomenon of the last decades, the issue of multiculturalism has become one of the current topics of discussion in the global world. The great metropolis hosts, in the name of religious tolerance, Muslim mosques and Jewish synagogues, Hindu or Buddhist temples, along with Christian cathedrals. London has about 100 Sharia courts and nearly 500 mosques, being „more Islamic than many Muslim countries put together”³², according to preacher Maulana Siez Raza Rizvi. In Rotterdam, half of the students are Muslims, and Los Angeles has become the second largest Filipino, Iranian or Mexican city in the world.³³

Some analysts have launched into the public view that globalization needs a „moral court to judge it, a voice of conscience to amend it”, considering religion the only one capable of moderating the contradictory debate about the future evolution of this process, even though the various religious traditions still have different views on globalization. Being a force involved in shaping global culture and a potent vector of intercivilizational interactions, it is appreciated that religion can influence the process of globalization, in the sense of promoting the components of societal balance so necessary to establish justice and prosperity worldwide.³⁴

The much-claimed multiculturalism, which was supposed to contribute to the formation of a new „multicultural society”, as a result of the phenomenon of migration enhanced by globalization, proved to be a failure, according to European political leaders. In December 2015, Angela Merkel stated that the attempt to build such a society „failed absolutely”, while a few months later, the British Prime Minister David Cameron claimed that ”these separate communities (of immigrants-n.a.) behave in ways diametrically opposed to our values.” Similar views were expressed by French President Nicolas Sarkozy or former Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar, political leaders of state entities deeply affected by the phenomenon of illegal immigration, including the high level of involvement of migrants in activities associated with organized crime.

³⁰ *Ibidem*, p. 428. According to the UK's National Statistics Office, in 2016, the most common boy's name in England and Wales was various spellings of the name "Mahomed".

³¹ “Merkel warns on cost of welfare”, *The Financial Times*, 16 December, 2012.

³² [https://ziarulromanesc.net/stiri-uk/predicator-musulman-londra-este-mai-islamic-decat-multe-tari-musulmane-puse-la-un-loc/accesat 30. 07. 2020](https://ziarulromanesc.net/stiri-uk/predicator-musulman-londra-este-mai-islamic-decat-multe-tari-musulmane-puse-la-un-loc/accesat%2030.07.2020).

³³ Mark, Juersgensmeyer, ”*Thinking Globally About Religion*”, in Mark, Juersgensmeyer (editor), *Global Religions*, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2003, p. 4.

³⁴ Natalia, Vlas, *Globalization and the religious phenomenon at the beginning of the 21st century*, Cluj-Napoca, Cluj University Press Publishing House, 2008, p. 95-97.

In this context, public reactions to the manifestation of organized crime, involving migrants mainly from the Middle East, have not been long in coming. Opinion polls published by the German press showed that 30% of those surveyed claimed that Germany was „invaded by foreigners”, while about 47% said that „Islam had nothing to look for” on German territory.³⁵ On the other hand, right wing extremist groups such as the Alternative for Germany, the National Front (France), VOX (Spain), the Democrats (Sweden), the Golden Dawn (Greece), the Freedom Party (Netherlands) and the Danish People's Party consolidated their popularity by claiming anti-immigration public positions, including in external actions against immigrant groups.³⁶

Starting from the problematic aspects generated by the phenomenon of globalization, an intellectual exercise that would require an overview of the great historical crises around the world, leads us to the idea that they were triggered by factors closely related to social inequity, which in the long run has led to the split of the world into highly developed, highly industrialized states, and poorly developed states, impoverished or lacking vital natural resources, which radiate instability, insecurity and uncertainty.

3. The positive impact of the globalization process on social security

In highlighting the positive impact of the globalization process on today's society, we start from the premise that it has a major contribution to the accelerated development of productive forces (with direct effects on increasing the well-being and living standards of citizens), boosting scientific and technological progress which lie at the basis of the processes of emancipation of humanity) and has contributed substantially to the diversification of forms of communication between state entities, bringing immeasurable benefits in terms of reducing the sources of conflict and improving the parameters of the security equation as a whole.

The liberalization of trade in goods, services and capital was possible as a result of the emergence of international bodies that contributed to the birth of numerous bilateral and regional agreements that enhanced the process of globalization. The General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development and the International Monetary Fund are among the most eloquent examples. The Eurostat report (statistical data extracted in March 2020) highlights the total volume of trade in goods (exports and imports) recorded for the three major players in the globalization process, led by the European Union, with a volume of 3967 billion EUR (this does not include intra-EU trade), China - with 3917 billion EUR and the United States - with 3625 billion EUR. They also, but in a different order, registered the highest shares of exports of goods (China -15.8%, the European Union - 15.5% and the United States -10.6%), respectively at imports (United States -15.8%, European Union -

³⁵ Douglas, Murray, *The Strange Suicide of Europe. Immigration, Identity, Islam*, p. 137-139.

³⁶ <https://monitorulapararii.ro/extrema-dreapta-europeana-dominata-de-lone-wolfs-si-radicalizarea-online-1-25424/> accessed 09. 07. 2020.

„Reflections on the Phenomenon of Globalization, from the Perspective of the Impact on Current Society,” *Astra Salvensis*, VIII (2020), no. 16, p. 315-337.

13.7% and China -13%).³⁷ It can be concluded that globalization is presented today as a dynamic process, centered around the poles of American power and the old European continent, but knowing a reverence of the Asian pole centered around the Sinic civilization.

It is necessary to mention a purely objective and pragmatic reality: globalization helps humanity, it is the necessary impetus for it to reconsider its resource base and capitalize on its intellectual potential in order to ensure a higher standard of living, but also international security in a new approach, in accordance with the expected horizon of the citizen of the modern globalized world, increasingly connected to the existential problems of contemporaneity. Globalization has an essential impact on research and development, contributing to the accumulation of knowledge in various fields of interest and the generation of innovative activities necessary for society's progress, improving the way scientific activities are carried out through communication and dissemination of research results, all subsumed by what generically defines international scientific cooperation. A defining role in the globalization of research and development belongs to transnational companies, which together with the public sector of research and development, globally interconnected, can contribute to enhancing the importance of these elitist activities in more and more areas of society. Developed countries spend large sums of the public budget on science and international cooperation. According to a UNESCO statistic, in 2018, the top three countries in the world in terms of research and development expenses were the United States (\$ 476 billion), China (\$ 370.6 billion) and Japan (\$ 170.5 billion), followed by Russia (\$ 39.8 billion), with global expenses amounting to about \$ 1.8 trillion.³⁸ A simple analysis can lead us to the conclusion that the degree of funding of scientific research activities is closely correlated with the technological progress in geographical areas where the footprints of the globalization process are most obvious. However, science is still unable to provide prompt answers to problematic issues at the global societal level, which even globalization has potentiated. The SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, which produces devastating effects on the planet, is the most eloquent example...

Globalization has had a positive impact on society and has contributed to the blurring of security issues, such as interstate and intrastate wars, genocide or ethnic cleansing. It is a truism to say that the potentiation of the phenomenon of globalization, with the end of the Cold War, has led to a decrease in the number, time and space of military conflicts. Relevant is the fact that the Western Hemisphere, the American continent, has not faced interstate military conflicts since the end of the classical international system of power in the last decade of the last century. Such confrontations are unlikely to be found in the Europe of the future, although the south-east of the

³⁷https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=International_trade_in_goods/ro#Cea_mai_mare_cot.C4.83_a_comer.C8.9Bului_cu_m.C4.83rfuri_.C3.AEn_interiorul_UE_s-a_.C3.AEnregistrat_.C3.AEn_Luxemburg_.C8.99i_Slovia, accessed on 01. 08. 2020.

³⁸ <https://financialintelligence.ro/top-10-tari-care-investesc-cei-mai-multi-bani-in-cercetare-si-dezvoltare>, accessed on 31. 07. 2020.

continent has faced this problem in the decades since the border between the 20th and 21st centuries. Sub-Saharan Africa was the scene of abominable massacres during this period. Armed conflicts inside the states are at the forefront and do not seem to be resolved in the near future. What is happening today in Kashmir, Angola, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Colombia, Ukraine or in some countries of the Middle East are the most obvious examples that confirm the previous statements. Against the background of these unfavorable contexts, which can be eradicated in the most optimistic scenario, the intervention and the necessary measures “fall” on the international organizations that bear the imprint of the globalization phenomenon, for example the UNO and NATO; they will have to limit potential conflicts, where appropriate, and then ensure the penetration of democracy in geographical areas traditionally characterized by authoritarianism and human rights violations.

Under these auspices, although globalization has failed to generate a supranational institutional entity, unanimously accepted worldwide from a legal point of view, that can eliminate existing tensions between certain state entities and „advise” the multidimensional process of globalization on a global scale, the global community has the capacity and duty to take measures and develop modern policies to be put in into practice by new multi-purpose democratic bodies and mechanisms to oversee the international system, all of which are at the same time a solution to security problems. The interactions and the interdependence relationship that arises between state entities, against the background of the globalization process, impose new approaches on various levels, the political one being decisive as it is at the origin of alliance systems that coagulate on various criteria (economic, political, military, civil society) between state entities, which can lead to changes at national or regional level, the repositioning of economic power centers, changes in the sovereignty of some states and, last but not least, the generation of democratic multilateral mechanisms for managing the international system as a real solution to security issues.

In the context in which it is well known that a nation-state is endowed with a limited capacity to produce and ensure state security, it is wrong to attribute an exaggerated role to globalization in achieving social security, as such an idea could lead to the conclusion that the process of globalization undermines the role of the national state in achieving its own security, exerting pressure on state entities both from „outside” and from „inside”. An objective approach is one in which we consider that globalization is a potentiating force coming from the „outside” whose role is to amplify the capacity of a state to provide security in the classical, traditional sense.³⁹

It is obvious that after the end of the Cold War, the states of the world gave up the idea of ensuring national security through the unilateral military solution. Thus, a new type of security concept was born - human security - which included, in addition to military and political components, a series of economic, social and environmental components, which are basically defining elements of globalization, in response to contemporaneity to the challenges currently faced internally by some state entities or to

³⁹ Ian, Clark, *Globalization and International Relations Theory*, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 1999, pp.107-114.

„Reflections on the Phenomenon of Globalization, from the Perspective of the Impact on Current Society,” *Astra Salvensis*, VIII (2020), no. 16, p. 315-337.

recent interstate confrontations on the international stage.⁴⁰ The new solution that seeks to ensure security involves giving up the unilateral military approach, in favor of the multilateral coalition of non-military forces. Viewed in this way, the relationship between the process of globalization and that of security becomes much more complex. That is why human security must be understood and accepted as a „fundamental and universal moral right of the person” according to which can be established the threshold and limits of interventions of international bodies justified from a moral and political perspective, as an emanation of the process of globalization, which are often perceived as violations of the national sovereignty of state entities.⁴¹

At the global level, economic, financial, social and cultural processes, circumscribed to the concept of human security, are closely linked to the state democracy that created the formal framework for their evolution and expansion globally, generating, in practice, the possibility of an unconstrained world, in which the citizen is able to develop and express himself according to his own aspirations and beliefs. Observing the biunivocal relationship between democracy and globalization, some analysts believe that the fate of democracy depends on the fate of the global world, while other voices believe that, despite famous historical examples in which we can see periods of progress and prosperity and other forms of government than democratic ones, democracy remains the viable, natural and clearly superior solution by which people can be governed.⁴² The concept of cosmopolitan democracy, which calls for the implementation of democratic behavioral norms at the level of all state entities, seems to be the solution to ensure human security under the pressure of the processes that characterize globalization.

National democracy is, however, of major importance; without it, it would not have been possible to interconnect the processes of a political, economic, social, military or cultural nature, characteristic of each state entity, at regional or international level and their extension, in the network, at planetary level. Without national democracy, the process of globalization would not have been possible. It is a truism to say today that countries that have implemented democratic regimes of government have been at the forefront of cross-border cooperation at the global level, agreeing on innovative ideas calling for the need to conclude interstate agreements and the need to establish institutions with representation at an international level. Even if the policies of commencement and democratic cooperation were action imperatives imposed by the phenomenon of globalization, in 2019, only 5.7% of the world's population belonged to „full democracies”. On the other hand, the populist insurgency that has emerged in recent years in states characterized by consolidated democracies, augmented by the massive

⁴⁰ Kaldor, Mary, *Securitate Umană. Reflexii asupra globalizării și intervenției*, CA Publishing, Cluj-Napoca, 2010, pp. 19-23

⁴¹ Horațiu-Traian, Crișan, *Human security. An analysis from the perspective of individual rights*, pp.74-78, in Cătălina-Daniela, Răducu & Bogdan, Ștefanachi (editors), *Human security. Contemporary challenges*, Pro Universitaria, Bucharest, 2015.

⁴² George, Hălărescu, *The relationship between democracy and globalization* - doctoral thesis, University of Bucharest, 2012, p. 132, apud Robert, Dahl, *Democracy and its critics*, European Institute of Iași Publishing House, 2002, p. 423, available at https://www.academia.edu/8754868/Rela%C8%9Bia_%C3%AEntre_democra%C8%9Bie_%C8%99i_globalizare, accessed on 30. 07. 2020.

wave of protest movements that have called for „greater popular sovereignty and better political representation” (both enhanced by the facilities offered by the phenomenon of globalization), have fueled the potential for the regeneration of democracy or its approach in another specific form imposed by current societal realities. It should not be overlooked that the decline of global democracy is largely due to the problematic aspects of Latin America, North and Sub-Saharan Africa or the Middle East⁴³, areas characterized by a fragile balance of the current security equation, crushed by multiple internal problems.

In today's global world, the national democracy of the rule of law is the lever with which a number of state entities have made the most important advances in political, economic, social or cultural life. The great gains of democracy, combined with the process of globalization, are represented by the generation of a true common world culture. It could be said that democratization and globalization could lead to a „universal civilization”, characterized by Samuel Huntington as the „cultural unification of humanity and the growing acceptance of common values, beliefs, orientations, practices and institutions by peoples around the world”.

An overview at the global level would lead us to the conclusion that democracy has become global, it characterizes most states of the world, has led to the removal of arbitrariness from the lives of citizens by establishing and respecting the rule of law, legislating and legitimizing their rights and freedoms, it has ensured an acceptable standard of living for most of them and, last but not least, it has helped to ensure everyone's security. It should not be neglected, however, that in some state entities democracy has been "implemented" and manifested itself in the form of its own model, a democracy dependent on national specificities, not always well understood, which has generated many dysfunctions, with consequences on the fundamental rights and freedoms of citizens. It should be noted that democracy does not set in automatically with the establishment and implementation of democratic institutions - some even formally and under pressure from international bodies - and a number of mechanisms are needed to regulate the interaction between the authorities and the citizen or civil society, when one can speak of its existence. The Arab world is perhaps the most eloquent example that supports the already mentioned ideas, because Arab thought remains dogmatically impregnated and captive to the tribal spirit, and a societal revolution, be it the Arab Spring itself, cannot be achieved without being based on secularism, relying almost exclusively on religious obscurantism⁴⁴, even if, as Professor Andrei Marga argues, religion was the first to be globalized. The success of the process of globalization, in its unequivocal relationship with democracy, can be assured in the future only insofar as the mechanisms that define and operationalize the concept of democracy will make their presence felt in the governing act carried out by international institutions, even in the context of public rhetoric that would challenge the legitimacy of their actions and accuse state entities of voluntarily renunciation of sovereignty.

At present, as a result of historical developments, the complex phenomenon of globalization manifests itself „multilayered”, on the one hand at the level of each state

⁴³ <https://cursdeguvernare.ro/democracy-index-2019-democratia-in-regres-global-scorul-romaniei-s-a-imbunatatit-dar-insuficient-pentru-un-salt-in-clasament.html>

⁴⁴ Adonis in dialogue with Houria Abdelouahed, *Islam and Violence*, Humanitas Publishing House, Bucharest, 2014, p. 8-10.

„Reflections on the Phenomenon of Globalization, from the Perspective of the Impact on Current Society,” *Astra Salvensis*, VIII (2020), no. 16, p. 315-337.

entity, producing substantial changes in individual or collective behavior on multiple levels of social life (despite the existence of a high degree of popular control and legitimacy that can be manifested thanks to the mechanisms of monitoring and democratic sanctioning available to citizens), and on the other hand at international level, where it imprints on the background the ways of interaction and relationship between institutions or directly or indirectly influences the leadership behavior of the administrations of certain states. In the latter case, democratic control mechanisms are greatly diminished and the complexity and importance of certain issues mean that important decisions are taken by „political elites without the consent of the majority of citizens”⁴⁵, which could lead to the idea that existing international institutions, the result of globalization, governs undemocratically. Although state entities are the main actors in the international relations scene, regional and international institutions have acquired important prerogatives that directly impact national societal life, which has led to centrifugal movements in many regions of the world that promote secession, autonomy or regionalization. The examples of recent years are edifying, if we refer only to the situation in the province of Catalonia in Spain or to the well-known BREXIT.

We can conclude, therefore, that each state entity has a special role in the architecture of globalization, and the degree of interaction and its specificities, within the planetary network determined by globalization, individualizes the types of manifestation of this process. The existence interactions and conditionalities, which are established between states or groups of states regardless of economic, political or cultural discrepancies, but which have a common point that brings them closer to cultural characteristics or political interests, gives rise to a type of participatory globalization. The role of the national state in enhancing such a type of globalization is important and stimulating, keeping awake sentimentally the state as an important actor on the stage of international relations. We mention that the process of globalization also includes a relationship that develops between states or groups of states characterized by important economic, political or cultural discrepancies, but which under the wave of institutional conformity, from the desire to claim alignment with the requirements of globally agreed behavior or obtain economic advantages, are the followers of the so-called passive globalization, whose effects on societal life are not in agreement with the expectations of the universal world.⁴⁶ The reality is that by overemphasizing the importance of the economic aspect of globalization, so much invoked today, the political decisions and cultural heritage of many state entities do not have the power to counterbalance the influence of economically developed countries on the process of globalization. The globalization of the free market has accentuated economic and social inequalities, enhancing the role of the group of great global powers, consisting of the United States,

⁴⁵ George, Hălărescu, *The relationship between democracy and globalization* p. 136.

⁴⁶ Bogdan Popoveniuc, *Globalization and market democracy*, Symposium. Journal of Socio-Human Sciences, Volume I, Nr. 2, Institute of Economic and Social Research „Gh. Zane”(ed.), Romanian Academy, Iași Branch, 2003, p. 431, available at https://www.researchgate.net/publication/274373595_Globalizzazione_si_democrazia_de_piata, accessed 31. 07. 2020.

Europe, China, Japan, Russia and India, an aspect predicted just a few years after the end of the Cold War by the great diplomat Henry Kissinger.⁴⁷

Paraphrasing Eric Hobsbawm, we could say that we are witnessing, since the 21st century, under the auspices of globalization, the creation of a new world order through a „planned rearrangement of the world” by the great centers of power, under the pretext of „spreading democracy”⁴⁸. The approach seems to ignore the specifics of the place and tends to be implemented „stricto-senso”, even where traditionalism and radical militancy have been fervent opponents of the stakes of modernization specific to globalization. The Middle East is the most eloquent example of this. The Arab Spring was the hope of the establishment of democracy with the wave of globalization, which removed conservative traditions and allowed the great mass of protesters to express their views on the need for democratic transformation of the Arab society. It has been completed by Western interventionism in countries such as Iraq or Afghanistan, which has shown that the rebuilding of the world cannot be achieved by shortening the specific stages of historical transformations or by exporting mentalities and institutions to civilly hostile spaces under the pretext of spreading democracy as an inherent result of globalization. The opposition of the Arab world to what is, in general, the process of globalization, can be justified by the fact that for the vast majority of the world's population, but especially for the representatives of Islamic civilization, globalization suggests „fear and insecurity” instead of „opportunity and inclusion”.⁴⁹

Worldwide, we are currently identifying, under the influence of the forces of globalization, the simultaneous manifestation of two processes of supranational manifestation: on the one hand one of a universalist nature, with the United States as promoter supports american hegemony, to ensure global peace and security, claiming the inefficiency of multinational actions, and another, heavily promoted by the European Union, located in the area of the old continent, which seeks to counterbalance American influence.⁵⁰ As a result of the already mentioned fact, we witness particularizations of the processes associated with globalization depending on the degree of acceptability by various state entities of the association to the two poles of the architecture of current economic, social, political and military power.

The United States of America wants to be the main player in globalization, more out of a desire to provide global security, by promoting a global institutional architecture based on political, cultural and military power poles, supported by the indisputable American economic dimension. Collective security systems such as NATO, regional cooperation bodies (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, North American Free Trade Agreement, International Monetary Fund, World Trade Organization) or International Criminal Court - which is intended to be a global constitutional and legal structure, represent the main tools for achieving the global order based on the idea of „American geopolitical primacy”.⁵¹ The process of European supranational coagulation, also carried

⁴⁷ Henry, Kissinger, *Diplomacy*, New York, Simon & Schuster, 1994, pp.23-24.

⁴⁸ Eric, Hobsbawm, *Globalization, Democracy and Terrorism*, Bucharest, Cartier Publishing House, 2016. p. 100.

⁴⁹ *Ibidem*, p. 96.

⁵⁰ Bogdan Popoveniuc, *Globalization and market democracy*, p. 432.

⁵¹ Mihai, A. Panu, *Geopolitical doctrines. The architecture of power in the international system*, Timișoara, West University Publishing House, 2018, p. 91-92.

„Reflections on the Phenomenon of Globalization, from the Perspective of the Impact on Current Society,” *Astra Salvensis*, VIII (2020), no. 16, p. 315-337.

out under the spectrum of globalization and materialized by the establishment of the European Union, faces, in recent years, obvious trends of fragmentation and dissociation, their effects being unpredictable, the most eloquent example being the most recent BREXIT. The two trends mentioned above must be viewed with reservations, as they have negative effects on the countries affected by this form of selective globalization.

The roller coaster of globalization and the unipolarity caused by the hegemonic behavior of the United States, whose leader Bill Clinton argued in 2010 that „the train of globalization cannot be reversed”⁵², is likely to generate a supranational political order consisting of macro-spaces brought together in geo-economic areas, as an instinctive reaction to preserve national or regional identities. Political scientist Aleksandr Dughin argues that the future planetary geopolitical configuration will consist of: the American geo-economic zone (consisting of the three macro-spaces of North America, Central America and South America), the Euro-African geo-economic zone (consisting of the European Union, Islamic and sub-Saharan Africa), the Asia-Pacific geo-economic zone (Japan, Australia, New Zealand and the countries of South-East Asia) and the Eurasian geo-economic zone (consisting of micro-spaces Russia and countries of the Independent States Community, Asian Islamic countries, China and India).⁵³

At the time of this research we cannot say that the main cultural pillars - the Asian and the Arab world - would show economic and cultural-political trends of globalization, although China or India are very important players in world`s geopolitical architecture. However, it is worth discussing, in this context, one of the hypotheses launched by Zbigniew Brzezinski, according to which, under the wave of globalization, the center of global power will move in the future from the North Atlantic area to the Far East⁵⁴, given the demographic potential, the economic, cultural and political importance, and, last but not least, the huge geographical area covered.

4. Perspectives of globalization. Conclusions

Globalization is a phenomenon that is in full development on a planetary level, and it is difficult to anticipate how it will evolve in the future and the end result of this process. Regardless of the pros and cons, the only thing that is certain is that globalization has become one of the increasingly influential „architects” of the new international security agenda.

The realities of today's world, evaluated from a political, economic and social perspective, highlight, in recent years, confusion and uncertainty, doubled by the intensification of violence, internal conflicts and anti-globalization feeling manifested more and more fervently in more and more regions of the world. In the context of this rhetoric, opposing positions on globalization cannot be ignored, and must be analyzed in accordance with the values of the contemporary world.

⁵² Mircea, Udrescu, *The failure of globalization and the risks to European and world security*, Journal of Military Sciences, Nr. 2/2020, p.95.

⁵³ Aleksandr, Dughin, *Eurasian Mission. An Introduction to Neo-Eurasiasism*, Arktos Media, Bucharest, 2014, p.60.

⁵⁴ Mihai, A. Panu, *Geopolitical doctrines. The architecture of power in the international system*, p. 87.

The topicality of the debates on globalization is determined by the evolution and amplification of internal conflicts in various regions of the globe, from the beginning of the 21st century to the present, by the need to better understand the complexity of associated phenomena whose manifestations and implications have affected the stability and social balance in the great centers of world power, but also by the inability of certain societies to become aware of the innovative nature of the process of globalization, due to ignorance and a culture that is economically, socially or security deficient.

The process of globalization requires a plurivalent approach, detached from the contextual aspects that triggered it and from the factors with multiple causality, objective or subjective, which have influenced the coordinates of its evolution so far. A pertinent investigation, based on the theory of rational choice, supported by an assessment of political, cultural-historical and social realities on the emergence and implications of the problems generated by the phenomenon of globalization, demands for the interdisciplinary nature of the analysis, which will have to cover the political, social, cultural, religious, military, but also economic and scientific fields.

Starting from the premise that globalization must pursue the desideratum of building a global society, based on human solidarity that constitutes a true home of all state entities, regardless of the level of economic development or their degree of culture and civilization, preserving the specificities of a multipolar world and trying to ensure the stability and security balance by „spreading” democracy, avoiding any form of manifestation of overpowering by the major actors in the process of globalization, the evolution of this process must take into account a number of potentiating factors, such as⁵⁵:

- *the need to redefine the importance of each state entity in a global context;*

The approach must aim at enhancing the importance of the state in the global architecture, stimulating the competitiveness and increasing the efficiency of states as actors in the globalization process, reducing the influence of different power groups, stimulating the adoption of new policies and internal legislative reforms adapted to the global world.

For any state entity, the integration, regionalization and globalization process has special specificities determined by its own geographical positioning, internal resources, socio-economic potential, development objectives aimed at medium and long term, the relationship developed with local entities, etc. Approaching a realistic vision of redefining their place, role, mechanisms and means of action, state entities must be fully aware of the negotiating capacity conferred by national particularities in which they excel, but adapted to the realities of the global governance system and, at the same time, to the relationships it can bear with existing centers of power or with certain state entities that manifest a desire for global ascension. At the same time, individual objectives and interests, in a multi-stakeholder system, are gradually harmonized, and often out of inertia, as the international system depicts complex geopolitical dynamics, which generate diversified and rapid paradigm shifts. At the level of state entities, institutional memory, relational practices, communication, approach and way of action require a rapid

⁵⁵ Vasile, Stănescu, *Civil society in the face of globalization*, pp. 59-60, available http://www.cide.ro/caiet_10.pdf, accessed 20. 09. 2020.

transformation adapted to the dynamics of globalization, by removing resilience to change and adopting a rhetoric that anticipates, formulates and transposes specific actions to give meaning and answer to the question „how and where do we want to position ourselves as an entity within a reasonable time horizon?”. Thus, the changes subsumed by the need to redefine the role and importance of state entities in the context of globalization must be integrated and operationalized gradually, through a coherent medium and long term vision, even if at a first level of analysis the dichotomous relationship could be discussed: fast and gradually versus medium and long term.

- *the need to reconsider/ redefine the institutional architecture at state level and adapt to regional and global particularities;*

There is no redefinition of a concept without a specific cause and without a framing in a new paradigm. The reconceptualization of the state institutional architecture can start from the fact that the current problems facing humanity will determine the change of paradigms induced by classical globalization, especially in terms of the diminished role of the state in accepting neoliberal ideology. Citizens reiterate the need for an „involved state”, with an articulated and coherent institutional architecture from an action point of view, to hold and exercise a strategic role, able to ensure a strong social protection, in the context of the special social problems today’s world faces. In a pessimistic view, the mix between nation-states and the single market that often manifests itself at the regional level, Europe being the most eloquent example, seems to be a serious obstacle to achieving this goal.

- *the need for the globalization wave to cover all state entities, regardless of geographical position or level of economic development;*

Today's world is unequal in terms of action possibilities and opportunities. Although there is often a need to move massive capital flows, especially in the field of investment from developed and technologically advanced countries to developing countries, today we are witnessing the concentration of most foreign investment, especially in the countries of the first category mentioned, the others, symbolically considered as part of the third world, finding their place at the tail of decisions aimed at the influx of investment capital so necessary for the development of their own economies. Paradoxically, although it is claimed that along with religion, the economy has globalized first, the current world economy does not have the characteristics of a global economy in the true sense of the concept, unanimously acknowledging that current financial flows are concentrated with priority in areas that, coincidentally or not, are the engines of globalization today, namely North America, Europe and the main countries of East Asia, Japan and China. Although skeptics of the globalization process often point to public rhetoric that globalization destroys domestic capital and national economies, enhancing the role and importance of transnational corporations, it should be noted that the number of transnational corporations, in the true sense of the word, is relatively small, most important companies globally, in terms of the turnover, having a national base but which, however, operate in a multinational market, there are no combined and coherent concerns for the development of international companies in the classical sense of terminology that contributes to the spreading of the effects of globalization, at least economically and socially, throughout the world.

On the other hand, the participation in globalization of all state entities should be required, while rebalancing global power by reducing the impact of so-called „zonal leaders” in favor of a balanced system of power that has control over military, economic and political issues.

- *the need to generate a global governance capacity, capable of reforming the institutional architecture in terms of policies, strategies and action modalities;*

In the context in which the phenomenon of globalization has profoundly marked the evolution of the 21st century, mankind facing a series of irreversible transformations determined by the evolution of technology, the phenomenon of terrorism, hybrid wars, major economic or social problems, pandemic with the new coronavirus etc, the need to coagulate a capacity for governance on a global scale, capable of responding effectively to human problems, can be brought forward. This subject can also be approached from the perspective of the paradigm shifts of the last period, when, together with the main actors, different economic entities, such as large corporations, have made their presence felt on the international scene. The economic dimension of globalization demonstrates that through the interdependence created between the states of the world, the possibility of leading and managing humanity from a perspective of common interests united in a single center of power is possible.

The idea of implementing a system of global governance cannot be considered utopian, given that the social mutations determined by the ideologies embraced by the popular masses have managed, throughout history, to lead to the emergence of new forms of government and social organization. The germs of this idea are being revived by the phenomenon of globalization, but they are difficult to put into practice in the context of the increasingly fierce promotion of the idea of nationalism and national identity. It could be considered that, since the great powers of the world dictate the existence of other states, we are already indirectly witnessing a global government. In reality, the implementation of this concept requires a solid institutional structure, able to incorporate the basic needs of humanity, emptied of ideologies and pride of national identities, oriented towards human values, rights and freedoms.

One of the ways to achieve a functional globalization, encompassing all countries of the world and leading to reducing the impact of existing major centers of power, is to create a center of global governance, which will ensure a prosperous governance by: creating a unique economic trading partnership worldwide; creating a planetary public system that ensures every citizen the right to a guaranteed minimum income, to free medical services or to free education; patenting and introduction of a global currency; reconsideration of existing political, social or religious ideologies in favor of ideologies specific to the new common global culture based on interpersonal cooperation; establishing mechanisms to ensure global peace and avoiding any form of armed military conflict. This solution involves difficulties in implementation, it may even seem utopian, mainly in view of the fact that international institutions have a strong political character that are generally driven by opposing economic and security interests, the international geopolitical environment being heterogeneous. The existence of institutions such as the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund or the World Bank offers the possibility of adapting the institutional architecture in order to transform them into a new institutional structure capable of supporting a global network.

„Reflections on the Phenomenon of Globalization, from the Perspective of the Impact on Current Society,” *Astra Salvensis*, VIII (2020), no. 16, p. 315-337.

The steps to implement a "functional globalization", or rather „forcing globalization”, may, however, lead to a global conflict that would propel humanity into a new era, a planetary, a posthumanist, an era of the „superhuman”- as Nietzsche said, in which inter-ideological struggles will no longer exist, but it will lead to a single struggle, that of progress and peace.

- *the need for a supranational institutionalized civil society to be an element of transnational social cohesion;*

Civil society, based on forms of social action undertaken by individuals or groups serving the general interest, through a democratic process not subject to the influence of state governmental authorities, has the role of a mediator between public authorities and citizens.⁵⁶ It may be a counterweight to the work of national or international institutions where interests are divergent, or it may be a support to their work if interests are convergent.

In the context of the transformations determined by the phenomenon of globalization, there is a need for collaboration at the international level, using the tools that globalism has created, between various structures of civil society, to determine changes in the vectors of societal life. At the international level, there are, in various associative forms, civil society entities that aim to defend the general interests of its members in relation to the various national and international governmental institutions.⁵⁷

The paradigm shifts generated by the globalization process have brought to the current international agenda issues to which a transnationally interconnected civil society can contribute (environmental and sustainable development issues, the reappearance of chronic local and regional phenomena fueled by extremism, amplification of social unrest, unconventional / asymmetric threats), connected to the current needs of humanity, which should be a viable alternative to the actions of international institutions, which by their nature tend to be rigid and politicized.

- *the need for a coherent political narrative that foreshadows the world of the future;*

As the political dimension is the fundamental element that determines the policy of globalization worldwide, distinct political narratives have appeared, meant to foreshadow the world of the future under the unstoppable roller of the globalization process.⁵⁸

The populist narrative is fueled by problematic issues that have arisen on the planet as a result of the spread of globalization, advocating for circulation in public space, through a mixture of true or false information, intentionally propagated to feed the sensational and ephemeral, the need to give up some of the fundamental elements of defining globalization (free movement of people and capital), which are considered the source of existential problems on a global scale, often dissociating from the rational and scientific knowledge that today's society so desperately needs.

⁵⁶ National Foundation for Community Development, Civil Society, available at https://www.fndc.ro/comunitate/societatea_civila.html, accessed on 15.08. 2020.

⁵⁷ The International Trade Union Confederation, *The International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) is the global voice of the world's working people*. disponibil la <https://www.ituc-csi.org/about-us>, accesat la 16.08.2020.

⁵⁸ https://www.ecfr.eu/page/-/the_post_coronavirus_world_is_already_here.pdf, accessed 15. 08. 2020.

The authoritarian narrative is in favor of promoting the idea that multiple interaction at the global level, „mediated” by the process of globalization, has so far not proved to be a recipe for success, ensuring prosperity and societal balance, major imbalances, especially economic, imposing the need for the manifestation of authoritarian regimes that enhance the entire range of resources of the nation state. It could be said that the authoritarian narrative would militate, rather, towards a retreat towards national isolationism than towards global integration accused of tendencies of uniformity, of affecting the traditional characteristics of state entities and of erasing national identities.

The democratic narrative is the flagship of promoting the concept of „democratic culture” centered around the idea of freedom and focused on commencement, transparency, commitment and responsibility. It argues that the promotion of democracy, at the level of more and more state entities, has generated substantial progress in all areas of social life and contributed to the birth of a common world culture. As democracy is an evolutionary process and the relationship between democracy and globalization is biunivocal, one might conclude that the process of globalization is also evolutionary, although it is difficult to predict the modalities of these developments. Citizens are, however, able to assess the performance of the state entities they belong to and the institutional architecture created by the process of globalization. Certainly, many of the citizens would like the institutions resulting from this extensive process to be able to meet their requirements, without substituting themselves for the states.

In conclusion, we can appreciate that the future of human society is unpredictable, the evolution of society being caught in the folds of history. However, the evolution of technology and the impact of events in recent years show us that the trajectory of human society can be surprising, what can now be considered a utopia or a film script, it can be materialized in the future by global governance.

As it fundamentally influences the dynamics and rhetoric of internal life and foreign policy coordinated by state institutional actors, being also a generator of sociological, economic and psychological consequences, globalization is approached distinctly by different entities, precisely because a universal approach would be elusive, and each organizational component could interpret it according to its own goals, prejudices and particularities.

„Reflections on the Phenomenon of Globalization, from the Perspective of the Impact on Current Society,” *Astra Salvensis*, VIII (2020), no. 16, p. 315-337.