# REPATTERNING THE INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ENVIRONMENT: THE IMPACT OF GLOBALIZATION ON SECURITY IN THE CULTURAL FIELD

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*Abstract: The present paper aims at presenting the relationship between globalization and security in the context of repatterning the present-day international security environment. The phenomenon of globalization produces multiple and longlasting effects of social, economic, political, military and cultural nature. The present study shows that the positive effects of globalization lead to the so-called globalization of security whereas the negative effects lead to the globalization of insecurity. National security is a component part of the international security. Any important problem occurring at the international level has a great impact on the national security affecting any state. Of course, the national security has a clear influence on the international security, too. A new approach is required all over the world, a new perspective on global security, that is, the human security centered on the individual who turns into the subject of security. One of the present-day requirements is a strategy of security in globalization, which should be based on the interdisciplinary understanding of the phenomenon of globalization embodied by the regional actors as well as a holistic thinking of the actors playing their parts at the level of the whole world. Their main aims are those referring to the mutual adjustment of globalization and security, unifying the issues which differentiate security from globalization and consolidate the peace, stability and security of the citizen. The present study also presents the opinions on the present-day international security environment and the concept of international security, this part being based on a questionnaire applied to a number of 33 subjects. Thus, this work is based on both quantitative and qualitative research methods.*

*Keywords: globalization, effects, culture, repatterning, international security.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The early 21st century is marked by major political changes with great impact upon the Euro-Atlantic security systems.

Globalization influences the relationship between the national security and international security by the mutations produced in the content of the sovereignty of the states and by shifting to the competence of regional and international organizations with certain responsibilities at the level of human security.

## 2. REDIMENSIONING THE PRESENT-DAY INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ENVIRONMENT

In the present-day international security environment, the states cooperate in order to promote their own security as well as the national interests and universal values based on the principles of democracy and market economy.

Concerning the centers of power, their hierarchy has been significantly transformed both by changing the way in which the protagonists play their roles and by highlighting the tendencies of strategic redimensioning of partnerships imposed by the interests and objectives of security of the main actors.

The dynamics of the present-day international security environment is characterized by the profound changes that took place in the early 21st century ending with the outbreak of the *War on Terror* and the historical extension of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the European Union.

Both the repatterning of the present-day international security environment by the reorganization of the international security organizations and the redefinition of the concepts concerning the collective fight against international terrorism have imposed new aspects to the security environment.

The world is in a continuous transformation, it gets globalized. Thus, new challenges and threats come into being, all of them being generated by new forms of violence based on ethnic disagreements and religious disputes and as a consequence, the present-day international security system is redimensioned (Neag, 2008:90-95).

The new risks and threats turned into asymmetric ones increasing their intensity and enlarging their area of manifestation. The absolute priority consists in preventing and counteracting these new asymmetric forms both within the framework of the democratic states and international security organizations. Thus, a new age is repatterned and within its framework Europe is unified in order to strengthen its stability and prosperity.

The unified Europe becomes a main actor on the international stage turning into a pillar of international security.

The unified Europe plays this main part in the situation in which it seems that the world is still dominated by the United States of America as many political analysts consider that we live in a unipolar age in which the Unites States succeeded in relating as efficiently as possible all the component parts of the political power to the military capacities and the economic as well as cultural ones.

We must admit that the United States of America remains the main economic power of the world benefitting mostly from the process of globalization, of the new digital economy and technological revolution.

Washington owns the most important military arsenal and the American armed forces are deployed on all the continents. Together with its allies, the United States fight against international terrorism. Since 1990 new centers of power have taken shape being confronted with economic or/and political problems, thus a repatterning being required.

The European Union became the second actor of world economy constituted as a civilian power and being confronted with a wide range of problems, such as: the integration issues, a very slow economic growth and structural unemployment and that is why it could not become a powerful military actor.

The Russian Federation represents the second military world power and an energetic superpower.

China and India face an increasing economic development having a huge human potential. Japan still suffers from the slow rhythm of economic rebirth after the recession of the 1990s.

The United States of America has the power which gives access to all the most important problems of the contemporary world.

Thus, the United States involves in all the previously mentioned issues bringing its contribution either directly or by means of the international organizations of security and the economic or financial ones.

The power of the United States of America is still perceived as a condition for stability and security in today's world.

It has the ability to dynamize the processes of globalization, liberalization and democratization of the world. However, the crisis of the Iranian and North Korean nuclear program stands as a proof for the fact that today the United States cannot solve anymore unilaterally a potential threat to the international security.

The most appropriate solution seems to be that of the international co-operation of the most important powers within the framework of the United Nations.

In this context, the effort of the international relations to strengthen the stability at the regional level can be perceived as a stage of the process of consolidating stability at the global level.

There have been used numberless economic, political, diplomatic as well as military instruments to strengthen the stability in the Balkans, Middle East or even in Africa.

The emphasis has also been laid upon developing the relations among states and taking common decisions.

It is worth to mention the basic tendencies in approaching the phenomenon of the organized crime in the early 21st century: the growth of transnational crime, the speculation of laws, the relation between money producing crimes with violent crimes.

In this context, international security is more and more affected by the control exerted by the organized crime on the different territories as well as on both internal and external markets.

Thus, a preventive and systematic approach to global security is required laying emphasis upon prevention and counterattack when dealing with the threat of organized crime to security.

## 3. THE EFFECTS OF GLOBALIZATION

At present, the world is changing and this happens mainly due to the interaction of the economy with the political system, the social and cultural institutions (Chirot, 1996:54).

Today we are affected by the effects of globalization. These effects are either positive or negative, either white or black, although in the contemporary society the white and the black are relative.

Today the economic standards turn into common standards being easily accepted by the international community. Different standards are here worth to be mentioned just like certain traditions and customs belonging to different cultures. They cannot determine changes at the global level.

Various cultures act differently, sometimes even surprisingly. Thus, the economic factor is not the key issue of the whole process.

There are many diachronic approaches and transnational processes with great impact on security as a consequence of globalization.

On the one hand, globalization has advantages. A great example might be the stimulation of the economic growth or the opening of different types of societies.

On the other hand, the phenomenon of globalization has disadvantages, such as: the destabilization of certain states, the vulnerabilization of entire regions.

Thus, this double-faced process of globalization can be explained by: on the one hand, its positive influence on the democratic community strengthening prosperity and liberty, stability and security and on the other hand, by its negative impact, the instability spreading out from the Middle East to the Asian seacoast.

Instability is generated by a series of factors, such as: poverty, power disequilibrium, government inefficiency, extremist Islamic fundamentalism. The most serious aspect is the lack of security.

It is worth to mention here the major dangers of the contemporary world - terrorism, the proliferation of mass destruction weapons, the organized crime, ethnic tensions, religious disputes, geopolitical rivalries – as they all have a great negative impact on democracy, stability and security.

Governments must respond appropriately by taking harsh measures to protect the territory against the asymmetric risks and threats.

The international antiterrorist coalition aims at managing the international conflicts, stimulating the economic growth, repatterning the security institutions in order to respond to the 21st century requirements.

Today an essential factor is represented by political instability. This issue is one of the most important items in elaborating the security policies highlighting the pressure exerted when expressing certain democratic rights specific to the western civilization.

The international system is defined by a relative distribution of power among the main component states. The main feature of the international system is considered to be unipolarity in the late 20th century and early 21st century.

The United States of America represents the only state entity able to promote its military and non-military interests anywhere irrespective of the region. The United States of America has a superior status in international relations by stimulating co-operation in all the fields of social life.

The security culture consists of the dialogue concerning the international security institutions as well as the economic, political or military alliances. The main problems concern the influences of the changes occurred in the security environment on the alliances, the development scenarios of the alliances and the creation of new forms of co-operation at global level.

Some consider that there is a transatlantic split according to numberless debates on the military operations of Afghanistan or the second Gulf war. Thus, it seems, according to many specialists in the field, that the Americans and a part of the Europeans do not share the same view on using force.

The world in which we live is not anymore a world of classical alliances. It is important for us all, as Europeans, to understand the European policy of defense and security and the reasons for creating certain coalitions.

It is considered that the North Atlantic Treaty Organization will represent a pillar of the Euro-Atlantic security and the European Union will develop as an important economic entity representing an important form of community and security.

All these tendencies develop under the conditions of globalization, a dynamic process of enlarging the interdependences among national states as a consequence of the extension of transnational links in various spheres of economic, political, social and cultural life having a great impact the fact that the problems get more global than national requiring a more global solution than a national one (Bari: 2003).

When defining the concept of globalization, the military dimension has to be emphasized as it is of paramount importance by its fight against terrorism.

Thus, the security of a certain zone, be it South-Eastern Europe or the Middle East, is part of global security. The traditional forms of fight against threats to international security are viewed as being far-fetched

Today we need modern alternatives, new forms of co-operation within the framework of the security community, various strategies and new security policies corresponding to the globalization of insecurity.

We, as citizens, are conditioned to function within the framework of a strategic global environment. Money operates in a global world just like media do in a borderless world. Likewise, security and insecurity got globalized. They cannot be anymore defined in the context of specific regions.

The essence of globalization cannot be reduced anymore to peace and progress. A global world is a world full of risks and threats, an unstable and dangerous world.

Today the essence of this global world can be reduced to a unique parameter: that is, the globalization of insecurity.

## 4. NATIONAL SECURITY – A COMPONENT PART OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY IN THE CONTEXT OF GLOBAL SECURITY

The relation between national security and international security, perceived as social realities, is a reciprocal one. National security is a component part of international security. Any problems occurring at the international level have also impact on the national security of any state. Homeland security can influence international security as well.

Within the framework of human security, the individual becomes the subject of security without considering the national, religious or ethnic characteristics. In the international context, human security imposes itself more and more as a vision on global security. In this respect, there are taken into consideration factors, such as: health, longevity, access to education.

In the areas marked by instability, the interventions of the United Nations are associated with a clear vision on these preoccupations.

Romania, as an EU and NATO member state, takes an active part in the prevention and management of crises and conflicts which endanger human security.

According to Zygmunt Bauman, the deepest meaning conveyed by the idea of globalization consists of the undefined, unorganized and self-propelled character of the world's problems; the lack of the center, of a decision taking board (2000:59).

The state is a hierarchical organization having full sovereignty: legislative, executive, economic, military as well as a cultural one.

Two great powers overwhelmed a world made up of sovereign states throughout 50 years. Each power promoted a certain world order based on the military, economic and cultural insufficiency of each state.

Thus, there is registered the tendency of grouping around certain political and military alliances perceived as a measure to defend independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and to promote the national interests.

Globalization manifested itself due to the disappearance of bipolarity. The states started to replace certain aspects of their sovereignty by some advantages offered by political, military and economic organizations. According to Zygmunt Bauman, globalization and territorialization are facets of the same process, the redistribution of sovereignty and power all over the world being caused by the revolutionary progress of the speed technology (Bauman, 2000: 70).

The connection between globalization and nation is debated by Ilie Bădescu and Dan Dungaciu (1995:136-213) who present the multifarious opinions of some Romanian and foreign sociologists on the phenomenon of globalization, approached in relation to the national state, as a symbol of national identity and space where the national security manifests itself.

Globalization can be approached according to two different theoretical models. The first one aims at unity in diversity and the second aims at unity by ignoring one's own identity.

The first model agrees with the constitution of human groups. The communist experiment is replaced by the political project of globalization. According to this political project, reality is adjusted to nonspecific grids implying a huge risk; thus, anytime the retort to this reality might be launched (Bădescu & Dungaciu, 1995:216).

Hence, it might result the aggression against some states, which can take the violent form of an aggression against humankind. The state-nation will continue to be beneficial for the development of mankind although some consider it to be historically far-fetched.

One of the priorities of the regional community is maintaining the stability at global level, offering the assistance necessary for the creation of international mechanisms of strengthening the sustainable development.

But all the time new risks, threats, vulnerabilities and challenges arise. International terrorism and transnational organized crime have a regional or global character.

It is worth to mention the impact exerted by globalization on the relation between national and international security in the cultural field.

Globalization influences the relation between national and international security by means of the mutations produced in the content of the states' sovereignty. Thus, a series of features specific to the traditional concept of state sovereignty is modified in the sense that these characteristics pass to some regional and international organizations with responsibilities at the level of human security.

It is well known that certain threats aim at both weak and strong states. First of all, we can refer to the negative effects of the globalization of economy, which can be felt by any citizen due to the poverty of people. Secondly, we can mention the international terrorism, which exploits the advantages of globalization in the sense that the weak states turn into its victims. Thirdly, we can refer to the proliferation of the weapons of mass destruction followed by the organized crime networks, the interethnic conflicts as well as the interreligious disputes. All these asymmetric threats must be prevented.

No state has the capacity to fight alone against such new threats irrespective of its power. Thus, the most indicated solution is given by international co-operation.

## 5. OPINIONS ON THE PRESENT-DAY INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ENVIRONMENT AND THE CONCEPT OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

**5.1 The Questionnaire**. In order to find out the opinions of the young people living in the present-day Romania on the international security environment and the phenomenon of globalization, I suggest the following questionnaire, consisting of a set of 10 questions.

**Q1.** What is, in your opinion, the most important feature of the present-day international security environment?

a. highlighting a new age marked by the United States of America considered to be the only credible and viable political, economic, military and financial superpower;

b. clearly distinguishing the European Union as a factor of stability and progress;

c. recognizing China's unprecedented economic and military development;

d. revealing Russia's diplomatic offensive.

**Q2.** For you, what is the most important challenge associated with the present-day global economic crisis?

a. the growth and spread of poverty;

b. the increase registered in the field of internal crime: tax avoidance, embezzlement, blackmail, forgery, abduction etc.

c. political fragmentation within the framework of certain states;

d. violent social movements.

**Q3.** What are the severest threats, in your opinion, aiming at both the weak and powerful states?

a. the negative effects of the economic globalization felt at the citizen's level by the impoverishment of millions of people;

b. the widespread occurrence of diseases;

c. international terrorism which exploits the advantages of globalization so that the weak states turn easily into its victims;

d. the organized crime networks which threaten the international stability and security.

**Q4.** In your opinion, what is the most important objective of the international anti-terrorist coalition?

a. international crisis management by putting an end to the proliferation of the mass destruction weapons;

b. the stimulation of the economic growth under the conditions of the free markets development by co-operating with international centers of power;

c. repatterning and redimensioning the security institutions according to the 21$^{st}$ century requirements;

d. I do not know.

**Q5.** What do you think is the most destructive factor for the stability of the international system?

a. poverty;

b. epidemics;

c. environmental pollution;

d. ethnic tensions.

**Q6.** What is, in your opinion, the basic principle of global security?

a. the principle of democracy;

b. the principle of efficient governing;

c. the principle of the compliance with laws;

d. I do not know.

**Q7.** In your opinion, what is the main asymmetry of the global world having the strongest impact upon the world's security state?

a. the concentration of the technological progress in the developed states;

b. the macro-economic vulnerability within the framework of the developing countries;

c. the contrast between the high level of money flow and the international mobility of work, especially the unskilled labor;

d. I do not know.

**Q8.** What is, from a geopolitical point of view, in your opinion, the major dimension in today's Europe?

a. the Euro-Asian dimension;

b. the Euro-Atlantic dimension;

c. the Euro-African dimension;

d. I do not know.

**Q9.** What do you think is the main risk to the security of the European space?

a. terrorism;

b. the proliferation of the weapons of mass destruction;

c. organized crime;

d. illicit trafficking of drugs and people.

**Q10.** How do you view the phenomenon of regionalization?

a. as a means of protection against globalization;

b. as an instrument used in order to overcome the difficulties caused by the reduced dimension of the national states;

c. as a form of *hard* essence used to transform the micro-regions into spaces of national states which should co-operate among them;

d. as a *soft* form open to the modernization of the world based on *soft power*.

**5.2 The Subjects of the Questionnaire.** The previously presented questionnaire has been distributed to a number of 33 subjects aged in between 19 and 23.

It is worth to mention the sex of the subjects: out of the 33 subjects, 12 are male subjects representing 36.36% and 21 are female subjects standing for 63.63%.

Regarding the subjects' nationality, we confront ourselves with unity in diversity.

Out of the 33 students, one student has Venezuelan nationality – 3.03%, another subject has German nationality (Hungarian and Czech) according to that particular subject's statement – 3.03%, 2 subjects have Hungarian nationality – 6.06% and 29 are of Romanian nationality – 87.87%.

All in all, except for the fact that all the subjects are students within the framework of the Cultural Studies program and all of them live in an urban area, we can say that we deal with the phenomenon of *diversity in unity* due to the various religious backgrounds and nationalities registered in this study based on 33 subjects or *unity in diversity* as although they belong to different categories, they are united within the framework of an academic environment, which offers them the same chances irrespective of sex, nationality or religion.

**5.3 The Interpretation of the Data on the Present-Day International Security Environment and the Concept of International Security.** The first question is about the most important feature of the present-day international security environment and it has registered very interesting results.

Out of the 33 respondents, 11 subjects (33.33%) consider that the main feature is that of highlighting a new age marked by the United States of America considered to be the only credible and viable political, economic, military and financial superpower represented by variant a),

10 subjects (30.30%) think that the most important feature is that presented in variant b), namely clearly distinguishing the European Union as a factor of stability and progress,

according to other 7 subjects (21.21%) the main feature of the present-day international security environment is represented by China's unprecedented economic and military development, that is variant c),

and 5 subjects (15.15%) identified variant d) with the most important feature standing for Russia's diplomatic offensive.

All these possible answers demonstrate that the future international security system will be based on a multipolar structure.

The second question refers to the most important challenge associated with the present-day global economic crisis.

Out of the 33 subjects, 15 respondents (45.45%) consider that variant a) is the most appropriate answer to the question, that is, the growth and spread of poverty, which according to them might be the main challenge associated with the crisis.

Other 13 subjects (39.39%) have chosen variant b) represented by the increase registered in the field of internal crime - tax avoidance, embezzlement, blackmail, forgery, abduction – standing for the main challenge associated with the crisis.

Other 2 subjects (6.06%) have chosen variant c) – the political fragmentation within the framework of certain states

and other 3 subjects (9.09%) have selected variant d), identified with the violent social movements.

The third question lays emphasis upon the most severe threats aiming at both the weak and powerful states.

Variant a) has been chosen by 15 subjects (45.45%) who have associated the severest threats with the negative effects of the economic globalization felt at the citizen's level by the impoverishment of millions of people,

variant b) has been selected by a single subject (3.03%) in whose opinion the most severe threats are identified with the epidemics, the widespread occurrence of diseases.

Variant c) has been preferred by 11 subjects (33.33%) who have associated the most severe threat with international terrorism, which exploits the advantages of globalization so that the weak states turn easily into its victims,

and variant d) has been chosen by 6 subjects (18.18%) considering that the organized crime networks could be perceived as the main threat to the international stability and security.

The fourth question centered on the most important objective of the international anti-terrorist coalition has led to interesting results.

Out of the 33 respondents, 17 subjects (51.51%) have chosen answer a) considering that the international crisis management by putting an end to the proliferation of the mass destruction weapons might represent the main objective,

8 subjects (24.24%) associate answer b) with the major objective of the coalition, namely, the stimulation of the economic growth under the conditions of the free markets development by co-operating with the international centers of power.

Other 8 subjects (24.24%) associate this main goal with answer c), that is, repatterning and redimensioning the security institutions according to the 21st century requirements

and answer d) of the type "I do not know" has been chosen by nobody (0%), which is a positive thing.

The fifth question presents the most destructive factor for the stability of the international system and in this case, there have been registered interesting data.

This particular factor is associated by 12 subjects (36.36%) with variant a),

that is, poverty, by no subject (0%) with variant b) represented by the epidemics,

by 4 subjects (12.12%) with the environmental pollution represented by variant c)

and by 17 subjects (51.51%) with variant d) associated with the ethnic tensions.

The sixth question refers to the basic principle of global security.

This is identified by 9 subjects (27.27%) with the principle of democracy standing for variant a),

by 14 subjects (42.42%) with variant b), that is, the principle of efficient governing,

by 9 subjects (27.27%) with the principle of the compliance with the laws represented by variant c)

and only by one subject (3.03%) with variant d) according to which he/ she does not know with what kind of principle to associate global security.

The main asymmetry of the global world with the greatest impact upon the world security state represents the topic of the seventh question.

This most important asymmetry of the global world is associated by 4 subjects (12.12%) out of the 33 respondents with variant a), that is, the concentration of the technological progress in the developed states,

by 8 subjects (24.24%) with answer b), namely, the macro-economic vulnerability within the framework of the developing countries,

by 16 subjects (48.48%) with answer c), that is, the contrast between the high level of money flow and the international mobility of work, especially the unskilled labor

and by 5 subjects (15.15%) with variant d) "I do not know".

The next question, the eighth one, is based on the major dimension of today's Europe from a geopolitical point of view.

This particular dimension has been associated with the Euro-Asian one by 16 subjects (48.48%) who have chosen variant a)

and with the Euro-Atlantic one by 15 subjects (45.45%) who have selected answer b).

No subject (0%) has identified the main dimension in today's Europe with variant c), that is,

the Euro-African dimension and 2 subjects 6.06%) did not know how to answer choosing the last variant d).

The ninth question deals with the main risk to the security of the European space.

In the opinion of 5 subjects (15.15%), this major risk to the European security is terrorism represented by answer a),

9 subjects (27.27%) consider it to be the proliferation of the weapons of mass destruction identified with answer b),

10 subjects (30.30%) associate this main risk with variant c), that is,

the organized crime and 9 subjects (27.27%) have chosen variant d),

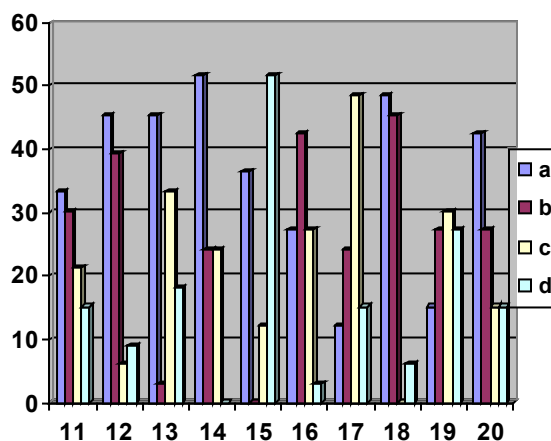namely, the illicit trafficking of drugs and people.

The tenth question is centered on the way in which the phenomenon of regionalization can be perceived by different people.

Regionalization is viewed by 14 subjects (42.42%) as a means of protection against globalization identified with variant a)

and by 9 subjects (27.27%) as an instrument used in order to overcome the difficulties caused by the reduced dimension of the national states represented by variant b).

The phenomenon of regionalization is perceived by 5 subjects (15.15%) as a form of *hard* essence used to transform the micro-regions into spaces of national states which should co-operate among them, perception identified with answer c),

and by other 5 subjects (15.15%) as variant d), that is, a *soft* form open to the modernization of the world based on *soft power*.



**Interpretation of Data on the Present-Day International Security Environment and the Concept of International Security: Q1-10**

As it can be seen in the Figure presented above, there have been only three cases representing three answers, which have not been chosen by the respondents.

The first case refers to the fourth question. In this particular case, nobody has chosen variant d), "I do not know". Hence, the international anti-terrorist coalition is of great importance for everybody and the major objective of this particular coalition is generally known by people.

The second case refers to the fifth question. In this situation, no one has selected as a possible answer variant b), which means that the epidemics are not perceived by people as being the most destructive factor, not having a great impact on the stability of the international system.

The third case refers to the eighth question. Nobody has chosen answer c). Thus, it results that the major dimension of today's Europe, from a geopolitical point of view, is generally known.

**CONCLUSIONS**

The phenomenon of globalization does not have the same social effects for all the citizens all over the world. The rich will continue to prosper in the future, too. The poor will live in the same way having the same problems in the future.

Even if the effects of globalization are both positive and negative, this process has to be accepted as an omnipresent reality. Each and every actor must benefit from all the advantages offered by this phenomenon of globalization.

As we have previously mentioned, globalization, as a complex and multidimensional phenomenon, has a strong impact upon the relation between national security and international security. This influence is felt by the impact exerted separately on each component of the relation and on the entire international community.

Globalization influences national security by its multiple effects on the economic, social and political activities of the states all over the world.

Today the states cannot act alone as they are more and more interdependent. The influence exerted by the international security on national security will be greater and greater as a consequence of the growth in importance of the role played by the international community in the crisis management.

It is very difficult to predict what sort of threats will affect us tomorrow and it is even more difficult for us to know how to protect ourselves in the near future.

Our possible answers can be based on certain realities in a continuous transformation.

We can only speculate the future global order. We can create only alternative scenarios.

What are the future potential threats? How can we protect ourselves from such threats? Hence, the vision of tomorrow's world.

There is a very important question whose answer could offer us the key, the information about the future threats, the most appropriate solution protecting all of us in front of such threats in tomorrow's world.

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