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## HOW POPULATION'S REDUCTION INFLUENCES ROMANIA'S SECURITY

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*Generally, population's reduction is caused by political, economic, social and natural factors. The profound cause of Romania's population reduction is the economic and moral crisis of the society!*

*The emigration of our countrymen that poses good skills, a high level of education and potential for development is beneficial for adoptive states. Those states will receive and fructify immigrants' ideas, solutions, services and products.*

*The Romania's political, economic and social situation may evolve from bad to worst because too many of us are engaged in personal battles – for positions, privileges, salaries etc. – instead of focusing our common efforts against our „common enemy” – crisis.*

*We should invest in the future considering “lessons learned”, because a wise man learns from other's experience whilst someone that has low level of education is not able to learn even from his own experience.*

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### **1. How Different is Romania's Situation from other States' one?**

According to some experts, period between 1870 and 1913 was the first stage of globalization. During that period the USA and some Latin-American countries registered an economic boom and they needed more workforce. So that they received about 60 million emigrants,[1] out of which USA had 25 millions,[2] most of them from Europe. The emigration wave caused diminishing of indigenous salaries and growth of the inequity between locals' incomes. The period that followed year 1980 marked an intensification of globalization's rhythm and a growth of the emigration's flow, especially from Africa, Asia and Latin-America towards USA and Western Europe, because emigrant's destination countries were facing, like nowadays, a low rate of birth and a rising of ageing population.[3] The immigration was encouraged during Western Europe economic boom and also because some jobs were not attractive for indigenous population.

Currently, “the uncontrolled spectrum of immigration from Africa and Asia, spread fear inside of many westerners' hearts (...) People fear that their culture could be radically changed if they will receive a population possessing a different culture (...) they are afraid of labor force's increase (...) they are afraid also of and increasing criminal activity (...) and potential suicidal attackers will hide among honest immigrants.”[ 4]The author of the previous considerations believes that all these fears could be eliminated, if mankind will impose capital and pollution control simultaneously with elimination of immigration's barriers, because that measure will stimulate world's economies.[5] Additionally, the immigrants could be tempted to come back to their native countries once they do not have any problem to emigrate again there where they are better paid, according to their skills.

The world of 2004 counted 175 million immigrants and 20 million refugees[6], the most preferred destinations being Western Europe and the USA[7]

Generally, migration is caused by political, economic, social, natural and demographic factors. The most important causes of emigration are overpopulation, followed by poverty. Practically, the two causes permanently influence each other. Overpopulation has become one of the most urgent problems of the world. Many solutions that have been studied and implemented failed. Family planning implemented in China and India was not satisfactory. China decided to adopt the solution of birth control and to limit the number of children to one per family. India adopted the solution of sterilization[8] Despite such solutions, the population of the two countries continues to grow and represents nowadays almost 40% of the world's population. Most people live in the poorest countries of the world[9]. Thierry P. Millemann believes that *"the only solution for those populations would be death, war, to appropriate the neighboring countries' wealth or, more simply, emigration to salvation zones like developed countries."*[10]

Although globalization helps us to better communicate and to know each other, the so-called "local patriotism" still exists and some people are tempted to be reluctant or even to reject foreigners, especially immigrants. Immigrants are seen as unfair competitors for jobs and resources allocated from the central budgets of the states to local communities. Also, immigrants and even countrymen from other regions may interfere with, or even change local traditions, a situation considered unacceptable, especially by certain conservative communities.

Some politicians set themselves the goal of building a successful political carrier on the immigration issue. They were successful by promoting the integration of immigrants into western societies. Other politicians sustain the expulsion of immigrants, invoking the high rate of unemployment and the devastating effects of the economic-financial crisis. However, the situation is controversial and the most convincing example is the attitude of some western countries, especially France,[11] against gypsy population originated from Bulgaria and Romania.[12] The expulsion of

Romanian and Bulgarian citizens from France leads to a Decision of Ministerial Committee of Europe, on the European Committee for Social Right's report from 29.06.2011. The Decision recalls France that Romania and Bulgaria are EU members so that their citizens have the rights to freely travel and work in any other UE member country.

In principle, I mean that considering the fundamental human rights, any immigrant needs assistance from the other state's authorities. It is a principle recognized by all UN member states. On the other hand, the social situation of local populations in all states, even in the developed ones, is rather difficult, because of economic and financial crisis, and so it will be necessary to include some additional criteria for judging the attitude of western countries' citizens. Many people have lost their jobs; the economic recession has created problems in all areas and the resources available for social programs have diminished dramatically. The need for domestic and foreign assistance is increasing and the allocated resources cannot cover all needs. These and other motivations, nurtured by extreme right parties,[13] have determined some ordinary citizens from European countries to sustain the idea of expelling illegal immigrants and refugees. Other westerners, usually the ones that sympathize with the left parties, appreciate that the solution is not the expulsion but the realistic policies to restart economy's growth and then immigrants as well the locals will have a chance to work. Right now, the riots and clashes in North-African and some Arab states have caused waves of refugees in Europe. The sympathetic attitude towards refugees is helpful but this is not a long term solution. Nobody knows when the struggles in North-African and Arab countries will come to an end. If one compares the situation in Kosovo (1999), Afghanistan (2001) and Iraq (2003) with the current one, then the possible conclusion is that the refugees as well as immigrants could stay for some decades in their adoptive countries. All this time, a few of them will probably get jobs to support themselves and their families, the others will live at the expense of the adoptive countries.



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This situation will create tensions between locals and immigrants, and the extreme right parties will profit from it to gain more supporters and votes for the Parliaments of the states. Although it is less probable, it might not be so surprising if some elections promote extreme right parties in leading positions in some European countries. The prognosis is based on: the negative effects of the economic crisis; the apparently inefficient measures of the current governments; the ability of the extreme right parties to attract on their side the dissatisfaction of the citizens, and the growing number of refugees from North-Africa and Arab countries that put a supplementary burden on the European citizens, especially on the westerners.

All in all, immigrants will not be easily accepted because of the already mentioned reasons and also because of the differences between their culture and the locals' one. Unity in diversity sounds good in principle, but takes time to be really accepted and implemented, maybe more than we expect. At their turn, immigrants have many adaptation problems starting with communication, because they do not know the language of the adoptive country and have to learn it. The process of adaptation will be finalized when the immigrants will modify their concepts about life, I mean to erase the major differences between their and locals' culture as well as behavior. Many immigrants, especially their descendents, are forced to live between two cultures, i.e., the one they come with and the adoptive country's one. Sometimes they are rejected by both former countrymen and the ones from the adoptive country. Former countrymen consider them "contaminated" by the foreign culture, which in some countries is unacceptable, because differences come to conflict. For instance, if a Muslim changes his religion, he might be sentenced to death by his former religion

members. The citizens of the adoptive country may not accept immigrants because they are not fully accustomed to the new rules, language, traditions, and so on. Some immigrants do not manage to fully integrate themselves into newly communities because their cultural heritage and the adoptive country's ethic as well as juridical norms cannot harmonize to each other, and then some choose the way of isolation into a sort of ghettos or enclaves. These problems could be speculated by organized crime and terrorist organizations that will give incentives to immigrants to enroll in these organizations in order to gain resources to live in better conditions and to revenge against those who would not accept them as equals inside the new societies. The immigrants' and the refugees' situation could be considered a "social bomb" for the entire mankind. Nobody knows when, where and how it will explode. The solution is not to accept and integrate numerous immigrants, but to help them live in better conditions in their own countries. That is to say, developed countries – which are the most preferred destination for the immigrants – have to invest in developing and underdeveloped countries to create jobs, to increase the level of education and health care, and to democratize their societies.

## **2. Romania' Population Is Diminished by the Emigration**

The EU experts that work for Romanian institutions earn more money for a working day than any Romanian expert or official for an entire month.[14] This situation generates frustration among indigenes and stimulates them to emigrate in order to be paid at EU experts' level. Approximately 11% of Romania's citizens would like to emigrate, a Gallup poll from 2010 revealed. This percentage is equal with the Irish one and places Romania and Ireland on 8<sup>th</sup> place

among EU member states. Spain and Portugal are the first with 15% of their citizens willing to emigrate, followed by Hungary and Luxembourg with 13% and Bulgaria and Lithuania with 12%.[15] There are no statistics about nationality of the Romania's citizens that would like to emigrate but historian Viorel Achim believes that the gypsies will emigrate massively during the next years[16] An World Bank report tells us that 2,77 million Romanian citizens had emigrated between 1990 and nowadays, most of them towards Spain, Italy, Hungary, Israel, USA, Canada, Austria, France and Great Britain.[17]

I think that most of those people that emigrate, no matter their level of education, have no willing to fight against life's burden and do not truly love their country. They seem to be guided by the dictum "my country is there where I feel good." Usually they would like to have a good and easy life. Also, they seem to think that having money means to escape from all the problems. Perhaps they live under the auspices of the dictum "*money makes everything*." [18] Some of the emigrants might realize that they were wrong and then may appear the desire to return home country but proud and shame may stop this feeling. So that emigrants from this category will remain with nostalgia of some beautiful memories which could be revealed from time to time to their friends or family members. What a pity that some people that emigrated do not makes difference between country's leadership and people of the country as did many emigrants that leaved Romania before 1989. They may blame country, trying to justify their decision to everybody that listen to them or read their written opinions, pretending that their native country does not merit them. In the end, the most active emigrants that blame Romania will fail in their trap and will believe their lies. Something similar happened to Stalin before World War II when he order to NKVD to set up a story of betrayal to his Marshal Thukacevsky and finally he believed the fake story and sentenced to death the marshal.

Quite many Romanians emigrate under the influence of friends and relatives, attracted by the mirage of a better life. Those people

usually belong to the category that leave themselves at the mercy of life and sometimes manage to find the Promised Land and another time fails into mediocrity and oblivion.

Valuable Romanians that decided to leave the country do not have enough patience to wait and fight until their value is fully recognized by the society. Also, their decision could be influenced by the labor force market from Romania that is not too generous and does not offer many options for somebody looking for a better job.[19] People belonging to this category are eager for change, also they have ideas and intellectual resources for implementing them. Unfortunately bureaucracy and tendencies of some individuals to steal their ideas or to benefit unilaterally from their creativity, make them choose the emigration way, hoping that the world from "beyond the borders," usually the Occident is ruled by the law and discrimination dos not exist. Soon they will discover that perfect society does not exist and will adapt to newly societies and manage to succeed. Some of them, not very many so far, desire to return to Romania aiming to change her into a better society. Those performing people could be the nuclei that might gather nation's positive and creative energies that lead to hers rebirth.

### **3. The Causes of Romanian Citizens' Emigration**

The real and profound cause of Romanian citizens' emigration is the morale crisis of the society! It seems to me that many of our countrymen have kept in their minds just a part of the education process namely the one dealing with citizens' rights. I have this perception because too many of our countrymen seem to be concerned about their rights and interests, both individual and group ones, and do not care too much of learning how to produce goods, services and solutions for our common future. I do believe that this attitude reflects well the real quality of Romania's education. How else could we assess the education's level whilst 53% of the high schools' graduates manage to pass the baccalaureate exam in 2011?[20] What could



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we say about morale quality of the teachers that had sex with their minor students? [21]. What can we say about Romanian pupils that did not manage to successfully accomplish the tests for „Progress in International Reading Literacy – PIRLS,”[22] causing the undesired 36<sup>th</sup> rank out of 45 participant states? It seems that the situation of education is similar in some other countries because people are disappointed that many pupils “do not know to read but know very well how to kiss.”[23] Unfortunately, the young generation’s mentors consist on schools’ teachers as well as street itself. The street is so many times populated with protesters from all political orientations, including schools’ teachers. It is their right! However, it seem to me that most of us were thought how to protest and do not care too much about the others that live next to us to whom we suppose to harmonize our rights. Strike is, or it should be an extreme form of protest against injustice, in order to push those people empowered to take appropriate measures for eliminating malfunctions, abuses, and any type of discrimination. During last period of time protests chained, especially those so-called “spontaneous,” aiming to solve some existing problems. What a pity that these actions too often neglect other citizens’ rights. The protesters seem not to care too much that other citizens suffer and, more than that, those citizens cannot contribute in any way to solving protesters problems. So what! Some people like to show up on TV or in newspapers and who knows they might be noticed and may manage to change the position of protester to one of a decision-maker. There are quite many precedents and I do not think that those practices will be stopped soon. People’s concern for their public image seems to be a trend of our times, launched by western experts in public relations. Those experts managed to transform

someone that was nobody into a celebrity.[24] In Romania there are people characterized as “without high intellectual and moral statue,”[25] but managed to impose themselves by numerous show ups on TV and speeches in public meetings. More and more people look interested in building an image from words, especially in TV programs. The urge of “pretend to work,”[26] addressed by a “colleague” to another one in a TV program from December 1989, is contagious for more Romanian citizens. Everybody wants to earn more money and to have a better life, but I do think that it is decent to assess our desires in accordance with legal and morale norms of the society.

Some experts with international recognition pointed out that greedy and lack of prudence are the most important causes of the global economic and financial crisis. Despite of this conclusion, it seems that “the diagnosis” did not have a strong echo among Romanian citizens. Corruption and fiscal evasion, estimated by competent authorities from Romania and EU at 42% from GDP,[27] makes national budget poorer and so the necessary resources for developing educational, infrastructural, and health care as well as the ones meant to create new jobs does not exist. Most of us complain that there is not economic growth but society does not take appropriate measures for stopping illegal business such as sealing cigarettes, false fiscal papers and other sort of merchandise provided by the smugglers. They do this illegal activity almost everywhere: in markets; in common transportations vehicles; at the streets corners etc. and make profit without any taxes. We criticize others but do not care too much about own behavior. We laugh even about unfortunate situations hoping to pass them easily and so the “garbage” is put under carpet, instead of taking measures to eliminate any custom that hurt us as well as

the other that expect from us to be role models.

#### **4. God Helps Us but ... Does Not Put Anything in our Bag!**

I do believe that economic and financial crisis is not correctly approached, from morale point of view. It seems to me that too many countrymen are engaged in personal battles – for social positions, for salaries and privileges[28] - which mean that they do not understand that crisis termination is more beneficial for everybody. In other words, we fight against each other worsening the society vulnerability, meaning that the negative effects of the economic recession are prolonged too much, instead of coordinating our efforts to fight against the “common enemy” – crisis itself.

I hope to be wrong but I have the feeling that many of our countrymen wait for EU help because a poll initiated by ziare.com, between 31.10.2011-08.11.2011, and having corruption as the main topic, revealed that 13.63% of the participants declared that corruption in Romania could be stopped only with the EU intervention, whilst 36.25% believe that this pledge could be eliminated only with the participation of all country's citizens.[29] The results of the above mentioned poll confirm some of the opinions written by Alina Mungiu who think that Romanian citizens seem not to be capable of active engagement unless they have to act against one of their ethnic origins which differentiate himself by his attitude that is meant to force them to make efforts they do not want to perform.[30] From my point of view, I do think that EU will not help us more than we should help ourselves. It would be against logic and the spirit of free competition and initiative. It seems to me that those experts and politicians that negotiated the EU and NATO admission, as well as many Romanian citizens, have forgotten the awareness of the representatives of the two organizations: “There is no free lunch in this world!” The end of the crisis will be possible when we, as Danila Prepeleac -the popular character of one story written by Ion Creanga – will discover that “need teaches us,” or, as

our ancestors said “*When the poor strives, The God fills up his bag.*”[31]

#### **5. How Emigration Affects Romania's Security?**

Negative influence against Romania's security could be accurate measured only during a study performed by a group of researches that will investigate the emigration for 4-5 years. I do not have precise data about the effects in all the dimensions of the security but I do think that emigration affects negatively Romania mainly: politically, diplomatically, economically, socially, psychologically and militarily.

##### ***5.1. The Effects within the Political and Diplomatic Dimensions of National Security***

At international level, Romania's image is negatively affected because of massive emigration of hers citizens. The states that received immigrants from Romania are displeased that they have to spend more funds for social assistance of newcomers. More than that, quite many Romanian citizens are involved in crimes in their adoptive states and the authorities take hard measures. The most recent are the forced expulsion of the gypsies, having Bulgarian and Romanian citizenship, from France and Italy, as well as the extension of restrictions for hiring Romanian and Bulgarian citizens in Ireland, Great Britain, The Nederland and Belgium.[32] Although does not seem to be connection between emigration of the Bulgarians and Romanians and The Nederland's refuse to accept admission of the two countries into Schengen space, written press suggest that hers attitude is caused by the corruption as well as emigration flow from Romania and Bulgaria.[33]

Corruption and low economic efficiency are among the most important causes that make up the minds of many Romanian citizens to emigrate. Also, because of the same causes some international companies decided to relocate their production facilities from Romania to other states and, more than that it seems that foreigner investors are discouraged to start business in our country.



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All in all, Romania's political leadership credibility is in a descendent trend at international level as a result of low efficiency of its solutions in macroeconomic terms. That is to say, the solutions adopted do not match the situations citizens, institutions and economic companies confront in real life.

Internally, the struggle between governing parties and the opposition's ones intensifies and may push the country into a political crisis. The rising of external debt, the negative tendency of living level and the uncertainty of economic recovery are the main issues that create divergence at political level. Political leadership is also blamed by an important part of the population because of its precarious economic and social situation. They believe that these are the main causes for many citizens to emigrate. It is the case for citizens with creative potential i.e. college and high school's students awarded at international Olympic contests for chemistry, mathematics, physics, informatics and so on, as well as people that won medals at innovative international contests. To all these above mentioned people that decided to emigrate we have to add some other categories that possess a very good skills such as physicists, engineers, scientific researchers etc. Emigration of all these people may reduce Romania's chances for economic recovery in the near future. I do think that there is a risk of some populist measures taken by the government in the year 2012 – which is an election one - in order to gain more votes by favoring short term solutions of improving social situation of poor citizens. In such a situation I believe that political leadership may postpone the country's evolution toward a negative tendency in political, economic and social terms.

### ***5.2. Economic Effects of the Emigration against National Security***

What loses Romania because her citizens emigrate? In short term we will be poorer three times. First Romania will lose the benefits resulted from ideas, solutions, goods and services produced by the emigrants that will be "transferred" to their adoptive countries. Secondly, Romania will lose the investments in educating the emigrants because the investments will produce effects for their adoptive countries. Thirdly, Romania will lose time invested in educating and training emigrants, which is necessary for educating and training some other people at the level of the emigrants. So, paradoxically, Romania sponsored developed countries, and perhaps will continue to do it in the near future, because of its brain drain in the benefits of those countries.

Economic stagnation or low economic growth will keep down population's level of living and will amplify poor citizens' dissatisfaction. A nonperforming economy does not attract too many investors and those that assume risks of investing in a country with such an economy almost sure will ask for many incentives such as exemption for taxes and so on that will guarantee their high profits. In this case the budget incomes will be rather modest and there will not be enough money for funding social and economic projects such as improving health care and education, developing economy and creating new jobs and making armed defense more performing.

### ***5.3. Social Effects of the Emigration against National Security***

Most of the emigrants are adult, well educated, possess a good skills and they could contribute substantially to economic, morale and social recovery of the country if they will decide to work in Romania instead of

emigrating. Leaving the country, those emigrants will diminish their chances for a rapid economic and social recovery. More than that, an extended economic decline, stagnation or an insignificant economic growth will raise the number of the unemployed people that will increase the budget's burden. Some of the unemployed people could be tempted by some dishonest investors to work illegally, in order to avoid fiscal taxes and to make important profits. The low level of education might be one of the main causes that justify the unemployed people's enrolment into criminal activities, individually or in different gangs that use to practice drugs, people and merchandises trafficking as well as money laundering, blackmail and fleecing private entrepreneurs. So that, those kind of people may contribute to rising of country's criminality level. Low level of living for majority of the people, as well as continuous reduction of resources allocated for population's social assistance may amplify protest activities both in number of protests as well as number of participants. The most likely participants in protest activities could be union's members and the poorest people. Protesters may ask for strong and efficient measures for recovering economy, eliminating corruption and improving education and health care. The increasing differences between have and have not people will contribute to diminishing social cohesion of the population as well as people's participation to the political life of the society. As a result of this complex situation it might be difficult to gain majority of the population's support for implementing important political measures that suppose to influence entire nation.

#### ***5.4. The Emigration Effects against Armed Defense of the Nation***

Massive emigration of Romanian citizens, added to economic and financial crisis will cause negative effects for country's security within the armed defense as well as within all the other dimensions that support defense efforts – economy, finances, education, human resources management etc. The most significant consequences of

Romanian citizens' emigration, especially of those that possess creative potential and highly qualification over the armed defense are the following:

- intensification of potential exodus of personnel from Armed Forces – especially the high qualified ones – towards other countries, other governmental structures and private sector that offer better salaries and benefits than Department of Defense (DoD);

- possible reduction in number and quality – from education level and personal competence point of view – of the candidates for military education institutions, and even of the volunteer because of uncertain carrier perspectives such as: job stability; existing jobs; professional development; less attractive salary than in another organizations and countries; high risks of the jobs etc.;

- partial reduction of the professional competence, both at individual as well as at the organization level, as a result of the high qualified people's exodus to other countries and because of scarce resources for performing training exercises in an appropriate number and complexity;

- unsafe level of security as well as incidents and accident likelihood rising during live exercises and activities with high pace, risk and complexity because of reducing in number of the highly trained personnel, especially the leading and combatant ones;

- increasing risk for diminishing the Armed Forces credibility as a whole, because of: the high likelihood not to accomplish NATO and E.U. standards and minimum military requirements for personnel;

- possible reduction in winning chance during live and simulated fights and firings because of reduction in number of the very skilful personnel;

- potential rising risk for failing to participate in Alliance's live exercises as a result of personnel's training level and skills which might be under the safety standards required by the organizers.

- possible reduction of the interoperability level with the allies and partners which may cause an amplified risk for failing to achieve the assumed commitments against UN, NATO, E.U.,





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OSCE and other international organizations because of less than necessary fighters, staff officers as well as leaders with appropriate level of skills.

**What have to be done?**

Any crisis contains a positive part, if we are able to identify and fructify it. In this case, the positive part is the brutal weak up to the cruel reality and utilizing the nation's existing energies but not fructified or inefficiently used yet. More precisely, on short and medium term, the loss suffered through emigration of our well educated and dynamic countrymen should aggravate economic, financial and morale crisis to the point which will make both decision-makers and ordinary people to understand that this course of action cannot be accepted any longer. Then, hopefully, as ultimate chance, decision-makers will take appropriate measures to use personal value, professional competence, integrity, responsibility and earnestly for eliminating corruption, imposture, politicians' chameleonic attitude and lack of responsibility. How far is that moment? It is hard to estimate but I do think that it may take at least a generation for rebuilding everything that was destroyed so frenzy within morale and education domains.

Education is hardly suffering. Many educators are too far from role models so that their pupils and students do not respect them, do not learn and train in accordance with the required norms. We should not be so amazed because "*school makes the man*"[34] – according to the teachers' value and behavior. How could we expect educators to teach their students or pupils common sense rules and respect for the norms, human values and laws, while they have sexual relationships with their minor pupils? It seems to me that education is a true Cinderella of the society despite the fact that majority of the prime-ministers and even

a former president of the country were and are university professors. The most important decision is to rebuild education, having performance, integrity and science tendencies' evolution as its most important objectives. Science had always an important role in mankind's evolution but currently knowledge and information are the true power multipliers. People, organizations and nations that do not understand at the right time this truth and will not take correct measures for adapting to the mankind's evolution tendencies will not have any chance to win competition initiated by the globalization. The way for avoiding the decline of the society is competitively rising from individual to organization and community level by adequately preparing human resources at all the levels, from decision-makers to people that prepare and implement decisions. The solution is to invest in the future considering lessons learned because a wise people learn from other's experience, while a dummy does not learn from his own experience. The Americans discovered the concept of "smart nation,"[35] but I do think that we need a well educated nation which means that our citizens should have adequate level of knowledge, the required skills, integrity and will for fructifying knowledge at the appropriate level. I also think that we no longer need persons that promise, give opinions and solutions for everything, especially on TV programs, but when they are in charge they prove to be incompetent or inefficient.

No long time ago it was a belief that a wrong decision is better than lack of decision. Currently, this belief is no longer adequate and has to be removed because a wrong decision could cause a heavy burden for one or even more generations. Any decision based on voluntarism instead of real capabilities will have important negative effects. That is why society has to be continuously transformed in

accordance with mankind's evolution's tendencies in all the domains – political, economic, social, morale and military. This is the only way to keep viability of the society.

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