THE SECURITY ENVIRONMENT AND THE PHENOMENON OF GLOBALIZATION: DIMENSIONS AND PROCESSES

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Abstract: *The present paper shows that the impact of globalization can be felt in any field of activity and its effects are not only multiple, but also long-lasting. Today the world can be perceived as a 'global village' and Romania is part of it. Thus, Romania must bring its contribution to the economic, political and cultural life of the whole world. The Romanian institutions and the civil society organizations must shape a stable national security environment. By the 'Millennium Declaration', adopted in September 2000 on the occasion of the 'Millennium Summit', the wish of the sustainable development is the one determining the implications of the impact of globalization and integration on the national, regional and international security environment. The dimensions of globalization represent the strategic fields in which the multifarious ways of action manifest themselves in order to carry out the stages of its extension referring to the sequence of the processes meant to develop and integrate security. The concept of globalization might refer to a real process or only to an undemanding representation of the world. The definitions of the concept highlight a wide range of approaches to global transformation according to certain ideologies.The present study also presents the opinions on the phenomenon of globalization and the security environment, 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, dimensions, processes, security*

1. INTRODUCTION

The phenomenon of globalization is a real way of developing a new world order. The knowledge-based society is centered on globalization, security environment and sustainable development.

Each national state, region or international community is confronted with multiple positive and negative effects of social, economic, political, military or cultural nature generated, in certain cases, by globalization.

There have also come into being certain movements against globalization and regional integration at both national and international level. Romania is a European state, which must co-operate with the other states belonging to the same region as well as with countries all over the world and that is why it must be open to exchanges of goods accepting the influence of the social, economic, political, military as well as cultural phenomena at international level.

2. THE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CONTEXT OF GLOBALIZAION

The *Millenium Declaration* adopted in September 2000 is the one establishing the *Millennium Development Objectives*, such as: reducing poverty, offering universal access to primary education, reducing infantile mortality, improving maternal health, HIV control, equality between sexes, global development partnerships.

The progress in the field of information technology has propelled the economic globalization associated with the changes which occured in the national approaches concerning the strategies used in the commercial field.

The interdependent channels of globalization are those which have a great impact upon the whole world. It is worth to mention here the new technologies, the flow of money as well as the migration of the workforce.

Most economies are not completely integrated in the global system.

There are certain persons who have certain doubts about the benefits of globalization being against an advanced integration.

We can say that new conditions are created for the economic development by the transformations made under the sign of the increasing globalization of the world economy.

3. THE DIMENSIONS OF GLOBALIZATION

Due to the fact that globalization is a complex and multidimensional phenomenon, its coordinates are not easily established.

Globalization has numerous effects in various fields of activity, such as: economy, politics, armed forces, society, culture and security.

In order to better understand the phenomenon of globalization, it is highly important for us to get conversant with its main dimensions. Thus, we should highlight a view on the way in which globalization exerts its power and influence on security.

Nowadays, the main dimensions of globalization are as clear as possible: the economic, political, informational, technological, administrative and cultural dimensions. We can state that the most important dimension of globalization is that of security.

3.1 The Economic Dimension

The economic dimension aims at integrating the production processes and markets. It deals with the interdependence of the national economies, the transnational corporations as well as sustainable development.

3.2 The Political Dimension

The economic dimension is interwoven with the political dimension manifested by international political innitiatives, pluralistic political views in international relations or the development of institutional structures of global political leadership.

3.3 The Information Dimension

The informational dimension (Tsang, 2008: 35) aims at widely connecting to the world flows of information.

This connection is made not only at the individual level, but also at the level of the whole community. The focus is laid upon the free access to information, a certain infrastructure being required by an appropriate development of the information society.

3.4 The Technological Dimension

The technological dimension is applied by the control of the access to the high technologies. The scientific research is oriented towards the sustainable development and the economic processes are technologically connected. The new discoveries should be used in the benefit of the citizens and the threats to the human existence should be eliminated.

3.5 The Administrative Dimension

The administrative dimension deals with the design of the spaces of vital interest, of the integrated communities, of sustainable development. The main aim is not only that of the people's survival but also that of progress and welfare.

The administrative entities of the shaping communities stand for important elements concerning the models of civilization, which might represent the basis of globalization in the other dimensions.

3.6 The Cultural Dimension

The cultural dimension of globalization is under construction being shaped by cultural development having in view the multinational integration laying emphasis upon the issue of identity as well as tolerance for a global and pluralistic culture. Within the framework of this particular culture, the national values develop together with universal values in the benefit of the whole international community.

The cultural dimension deals with the global unity in the diversity of specific cultures. The main aim is that of the mutual influences of the specific cultures, which should lead to the cultural uniformization at the global level.

3.7 The Dimension of Security

The most important dimension of the globalization is that of security, which is perceived as the evolution of the regional, continental and intercontinental stability by decisions taken at the multinational and international level.

It aims at eradicating the retrograde and autarchical phenomena, such as: international terrorism, anti-globalization movements of ethnic, nationalistic or religious nature or states confining themselves in far-fetched socio-economic development systems.

The security dimension of globalization is the most sensitive one both in the relation with the tendency of the globalization of terrorism and the idea of keeping the competence of the national states.

Today, in terms of security, a state is perceived as being small or big according to the threats to its security and to the possibilities of assuring its own security.

3.8 Globalization as a Multidimensional Process

Globalization is a multidimensional process, which rapidly and deeply restructures the national and global activities as well as the interactions among the social actors. The transformations made influence all the aspects of the human activity. But the rhythm differs according to the dimension in which they develop, be it economic, political or cultural

We cannot say that there is a universal definition of globalization, but it is perceived as being a process in which the obstacles in front of the international flows of goods, services, money and information are removed.

4. THE PROCESSES OF GLOBALIZATION

Globalization can be defined as a whole according to three fundamental theories: the world system theory, the theory of the world political organization and the world culture theory.

4.1 Globalization and The World System Theory

According to the world system theory, globalization stands for a process that ended in the 20th century by means of which capitalism spread all over the world. In the early 21st century, the economy of the capitalist world faces a huge crisis.

Immanuel Wallerstein is considered to be the strongest supporter of the world system theory. The exploitation of the markets cannot solve anymore the new economic crises.

4.2 Globalization and the Theory of the World Political Organization

According to the theory of the world political organization, globalization can be perceived as a process of growth and adoption of the world culture. The different views on progress, sovereignty and rights have developed various actions at both state and individual level offering a common background for international conflicts.

Thus, this culture turns into a common heritage supported by transnational groups. However, it is not accepted by the whole world.

The implementation of global models will not repattern a homogenous world. On the contrary, it will give birth to new conflicts.

4.3 Globalization and the World Culture Theory

As the world culture theory is concerned, globalization is viewed as the process of compressing or squeezing the world together highlighting its view as a whole. There are two different approaches.

On the one hand, some specialists consider that the world is represented by distinct communities highlighting the importance of the dissimilarities. On the other hand, others consider that the world is based on a unique model, thus, laying emphasis upon the interests of mankind perceived as a whole.

In this so-called compressed world, a cultural conflict can come into being due to the contrast and comparison of such perspectives, the key issue being represented by religion.

Thus, we can say that a globalized world is an integrated one, but not necessarily a harmonious one; it stands for a unique place, but at the same time a diverse one. It can be perceived as a whole, but, at the same time, it can be easily fragmented.

4.4 The Phenomenon and Processes of Globalization

There are numberless significances for the phenomenon as well as the processes of globalization. The definitions of globalization vary according to region, epoch or ideology. Thus, the meaning of the concept represents a topic of global debate.

Globalization refers to "the increased transnational flow of people, goods, and money that has occurred during the second half of the twentieth century. This mobility has been greatly facilitated by advances in communications and transportation technologies, such as the advent of passenger air travel, the personal computer, the internet, and cellular communications" (Collins, 2007: 354). The impact of these technological transformations for international mobility can be overstated.

According to Levi (2002), they do not represent "as great a leap forward as the invention of the telegraph or the steamship – inventions which did not lead to an explosion in transnational crime" (quoted by Collins, 2007).

The huge differences between the developing and the developed countries still exist. The number of civil conflicts increased all over the world. Globalization has also created new forms of co-operation among transnational criminal organizations.

As Teodor Frunzeti and Vladimir Zodian, the coordinators of the volume entitled *Lumea 2009*, consider in the *Introduction* of the previously mentioned work, globalization must be reconsidered according to several aspects: the economic one - due to the present-day economic crisis, the institutional one – in the context of the obsolete international institutions created after WWII and the geographical one – due to the predictable movement of the center of gravity of the contemporary world to the East, to Asia; the hierarchical one – due to the redistribution of the roles played by the main actors in the context of international relations, more precisely, the part played by the United States of America in the new world order as the USA can and is willing to play such a role (Frunzeti & Zodian, 2009:11).

According to Robert Kagan in *End of Dream. Return of History*, the world returned to normality, it has not transformed. The harmony of the post Cold War world without ideological conflicts can stand more for the projection of a desire than for the reflection of a reality being not so much transformed and the competition among the greatest powers still existing.

Kagan (2008:51) considers that the nations, the nationalistic ambitions and the competition among nations remain as strong as they have always been, thus shaping the history.

5. OPINIONS ON THE SECURITY ENVIRONMENT AND THE PHENOMENON OF GLOBALIZATION

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

Q1. What is globalization in your opinion?

a. a complex and multidimensional phenomenon;

b. a concrete form of achieving a new world order;

c. the increased transnational flow of people, goods and money that has occurred during the second half of the twentieth century;

d. there is no universal definition of globalization.

Q2. What is your opinion about globalization?

a. globalization brings people together and splits them apart;

b. globalization homogenizes and diversifies, coagulates and fragments;

c. globalization enriches people and impoverishes them;

d. globalization creates and develops new international structures.

Q3. How do you perceive the phenomenon of globalization in the context of the present-day economic and political transition?

a. as being a beneficial phenomenon;

b. as being a malign phenomenon;

c. as being a phenomenon with more or less beneficial consequences;

d. as being an insignificant phenomenon.

Q4. What sort of effects does globalization produce?

a. multiple effects of social, economic, political, military and cultural nature;

b. multiple and long-lasting effects;

c. positive effects for the rich states and negative effects for the poor states;

d. insignificant effects for all the states.

Q5. What kind of process is globalization?

a. a process ended in the twentieth century by means of which capitalism spread all over the world;

b. a process of growth and adoption of the world culture;

c. the process of compressing the world, of squeezing it together highlighting its vision as a whole;

d. a multidimensional process which repatterns and redimensions the national and global activities as well as the interactions among the social actors.

Q6. What dimension of globalization is the most important in your opinion?

a. the economic and political one;

b. the informational one;

c. the cultural one;

d. the dimension of security.

Q7. According to you, what does the dimension of security represent within the framework of the phenomenon of globalization?

a. the evolution of the regional, continental and intercontinental stability;

b. the eradication of the retrograde and autarchical phenomena;

c. the eradication of international terrorism;

d. the most sensible dimension of globalization.

Q8. Do you think that a strategy of security in globalization is necessary at present?

a. yes, such a strategy is highly necessary being based on a holistic thinking of the social actors all over the world;

b. yes, such a strategy is necessary being based on the interdisciplinary understanding of the phenomenon and the processes animated by the regional actors;

c. no, such a strategy is not necessary;

d. I do not know.

Q9. What do you think that there could be the main objective of the strategy of security in globalization?

a. mutually adjusting globalization and international security

b. harmonizing the problems which differentiate security from globalization;

c. strengthening the stability, peace and security of the citizens;

d. I do not know.

Q10. How does globalization influence the relation between national security and international security?

a. by the mutations produced in the content of the states' sovereignty;

b. by the change of the characteristics specific to the traditional concept of state sovereignty;

c. by shifting the competence to certain regional or international organizations with attributions at the level of human security;

d. I do not know.

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% as Figure 5 shows below.

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 Phenomenon of Globalization and the Security Environment

At the first question of the questionnaire about the significance of globalization, a number of 5 subjects (15.15%) have chosen variant

a) considering that globalization is a complex and multidimensional phenomenon, 6 subjects (18.18%) have been in favor of variant

b) thinking that globalization is a concrete form of achieving a new world order, 19 subjects (57.57%) have selected variant c) and according to them globalization represents the increased transnational flow of people, goods and money that has occurred during the second half of the twentieth century and 3 subjects (9.09%) considered answer d) as being the most appropriate one as there is no universal definition of globalization.

At the second question "What is your opinion about globalization?", 10 subjects (30.30%) consider that globalization brings people together and splits them apart, thus they have chosen variant a), 8 subjects (24.24%) have selected variant b) thinking that globalization homogenizes and diversifies, coagulates and fragments, only one subject (3.03%) considered that variant c) is the most adequate according to which globalization enriches people as well as impoverishes people, and 14 subjects (42.42%) have thought that variant d) is the best as globalization creates and develops new international structures.

The third question is based on the way in which the phenomenon of globalization is perceived in the context of the present-day economic and political transition. Alternative a), according to which globalization is viewed as being a beneficial phenomenon, has been chosen by 5 subjects (15.15%), only one subject (3.03%) has seen globalization as a malign phenomenon, 27 subjects (81.81%) have considered variant c) as the most appropriate one according to which the phenomenon of globalization has more or less beneficial consequences and no subject (0%) has chosen variant d) which means that all the subjects think that the phenomenon of globalization is a very important one.

The fourth question referring to the effects of globalization has been interpreted as follows: 26 subjects (78.78%) have considered variant a) as the most adequate one considering that globalization produces multiple effects of social, economic, political, military and cultural nature, 2 subjects (6.06%) have chosen variant

b) according to which globalization produces multiple and long-lasting effects, 5 subjects (15.15%) have selected variant c) considering that the effects of globalization are positive for the rich states and negative for the poor states and it is great to have nobody (0%) choosing variant d), which means that globalization produces significant effects for all the states.

The fifth question is centered on the typology of the globalization processes. Three subjects (9.09%) have chosen variant a) considering that globalization is a process which ended in the twentieth century by means of which capitalism spread all over the world, 8 subjects (24.24%) have selected answer b) according to which globalization is a process of growth and adoption of the world culture, 6 subjects (18.18%) have considered answer c) as being the right one as globalization can be perceived as the process of compressing the world, of squeezing it together highlighting its vison as a whole and 16 subjects (48.48%) have perceived globalization as a multidimensional process, which repatterns and redimensions the national and global activities as well as the interactions among the social actors.

The sixth question refers to the dimensions of globalization. 15 subjects (45.45%) have chosen answer a) considering that the most important dimension of globalization is the economic and political one, 3 subjects (9.09%) considered the most important dimension as the informational one according to variant b), 11 subjects (33.33%) have selected answer c) considering the cultural dimension as being the most important one and variant d) has been chosen by 4 subjects (12.12%) and according to them, the most important component part of globalization is the dimension of security.

The seventh question is focused on the significance of the dimension of security within the framework of the globalization phenomenon. 13 subjects (39.39%) consider that the dimension of security within globalization represents the evolution of the regional, continental and intercontinental stability. Only 3 subjects (9.09%) think that the dimension of security stands for the eradication of the retrograde and autarchical phenomena.

Variant c), according to which the dimension of security refers to the eradication of international terrorism, has been chosen by 7 subjects (21.21%), and answer d) by 10 subjects (30.30%) who consider it as the most sensitive dimension of globalization.

At the eighth question "Do you think that a strategy of security in globalization is necessary at present?", there have been registered the following answers: 15 subjects (45.45%) have chosen variant a) considering that such a strategy is highly necessary being based on a holistic thinking of the social actors all over the world, 17 subjects (51.51%) think that variant b) is the best according to which such a strategy is necessary being based on the interdisciplinary understanding of the phenomenon and the processes animated by the regional actors, nobody (0%) has chosen variant c), thus resulting that all the subjects consider such a strategy as being of paramount importance and only one subject (3.03%) declares that she does not know if such a strategy is necessary.

The ninth question refers to the main objective of the strategy of security in globalization, 8 subjects (24.24%) considering that this would be the objective presented in variant a), mutually adjusting globalization and international security; 11 subjects (33.33%) think that this objective is given in answer b), that is, harmonizing the problems which differentiate security from globalization, 13 subjects (39.39%) consider that this objective is the one formulated in answer c), namely, strengthening the stability, peace and security of all citizens and one subject (3.03%) declares that she does not know what this objective could be.

And the last question refers to the influence of globalization on the relation between national security and international security which is rendered as follows: 4 subjects (12.12%) have chosen variant a), by the mutations produced in the content of the states' sovereignty, 7 subjects (21.21%) have selected variant b), by the change of the characteristics specific to the traditional concept of state sovereignty, 20 subjects (60.60%) have considered answer c) as being the best, that is, by shifting the competence to certain regional or international organizations with attributions at the level of human security

and 2 subjects (6.06%) think that answer d) is the most appropriate one in their case as they do not know what could be the impact of globalization on the relation between national security and international security.
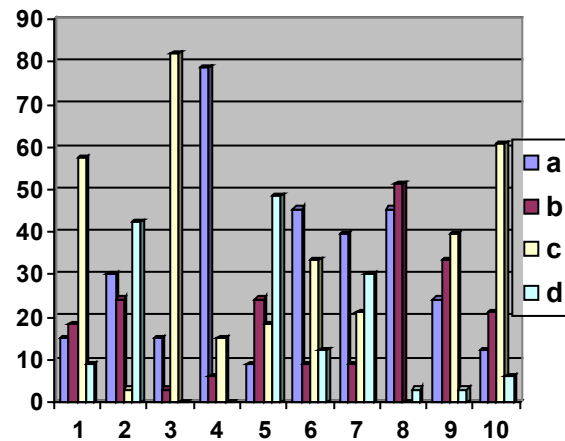

Fig.1 Interpretation of data on the phenomenon of globalization and the security environment: Q1-10

As the above Figure shows, there have been only three cases representing three alternatives that have not been chosen by the subjects.

The first case refers to the third question. Nobody has chosen variant d). Hence, the phenomenon of globalization is perceived as being of paramount importance in the context of the present-day economic and political transition.

The second case refers to the fourth question. Again, no one has selected variant d). This means that the phenomenon of globalization influences all the states all over the world.

The third case refers to the eighth question. In this situation, nobody has considered answer c) as being the most appropriate one. Thus, it results that the necessity of a strategy of security in globalization is generally accepted.

6. CONCLUSIONS

Globalization offers a high level of individual liberty, which cannot be offered by any state. The free competition at the global level freed the gifted ones and increased the number of technological innovations.

Unfortunately, globalization has a darker side, too. In the less developed countries, there were many people who suffered due to globalization without getting any support when referring to the social security system.

Globalization is perceived as a phenomenon, which unites and separates, homogenizes and diversifies, brings together and splits apart, coagulates and fragments, enriches and impoverishes. Globalization is the process which creates and develops new international structures. It exerts a certain pressure on the existing structures to take over more tasks than they can deal with at present accelerating the relations between societies and economies, between different zones and regions all over the world.

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