

ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL FACTS AND PERSPECTIVES OF 2017

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Abstract

Following the turbulent year of 2016, with deep geopolitical changes, the new year of 2017 promises to be full of challenges in what concerns the economic, social, political and geostrategic area. The key events of the last year (the Brexit, the elections in the USA, the events in Turkey, the force demonstrations of Russia, the situation of the migration wave etc.) shall have an impact on the global economic development and on the repositioning of its main actors. This paperwork intends to analyze the main consequences of the recent events on the short term progress in what concerns the economic, social, political and geostrategic area.

We hereby intend to review the facts and the main potential progress on the economic status of this year which was so complicated, both for the European Union and for every member of it.

Keywords: *geopolitical changes, geostrategy, Brexit, economic status, crisis.*

1. Introduction

The past year represented a troubled period, full of unexpected transformations and developments. The events of 2016 determine any medium and long term assessment to become hazardous and uncertain both from the economic point of view and from the social, political and geostrategic perspective. The economic unions, governments and military alliances which seemed to be unshakable are nowadays on quicksand, making every prediction to be not only uncertain, but even risky.

The basis of good governance is represented by several defining elements, such as¹:

- The participation of the citizens and the increase of their involvement within the decision-making system;
- The equity and fairness should be the degree by which the laws apply equally to everyone regardless of the social status.
- The decency, the scope being that the rules are established and managed without certain categories/groups of persons being damaged;
- The responsibility, the scope being that the institutional and political actors are seen as being held liable for their decisions and actions by the persons who are affected by such actions and decisions;
- The transparency, the scope being that the decisions which are made and implemented are made available to the citizens. The information has to be clear and accessible to everyone.
- The effectiveness and efficiency, meaning the carefulness applied for the use of human and financial

resources.

The functional categories which can be found in every political system and the consequences of which we find reflected in good governance are the following: civil society, political society, government, bureaucracy, economic society and judiciary system. James Madison said (Federalist Paper nr.51) „If men were angels, no government would be necessary”. Since we agree that humans are far from the angelic behavior, we agree that we need something or someone to lead us or at least to coordinate the activities (but we must not forget that the main reason for existence of that governance is to serve the man and the community he lives in). „For the first time in our history, in an increasingly multipolar external world, so many are becoming openly anti-European, or Eurosceptic at best”, as Donald Tusk wrote in the letter addressed to the 27 leaders of the countries which will remain EU members, after Great Britain will have left the European Union. The president of the European Council proposed the subject of the „internal threat which is connected with the rise in anti-EU, nationalist increasingly xenophobic sentiment”. „National egoism is also becoming an attractive alternative to integration”, in addition centrifugal tendencies and „the decline of faith of the pro-European elites in political integration, as well as the doubts in the fundamental values of liberal democracy” are other subjects proposed by Donald Tusk.

We live in such a society where, in the spirit of the fair political thinking, to admire someone or someone's creation is a blasphemy, because this means that the inequality among people is acknowledged. The idea of awarding prizes for certain merits is also convicted because the rewarding would mean to

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¹ www.anosr.ro/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/4-Ce-inseamna-buna-guvernare.

„insult” and to „under-privilege” other persons². In his book, *„A Study Of Our Decline”*, philosopher Philip Atkinson (n. 1947)³ stated the following: *By using the excuse of not upsetting anyone, “the political correctness” is demanding that people behave like a fool who would please everyone*⁴. *That everyone must become such a fool! All must accept the notions of the “Political correctness” as a truth. Woe to those who fail to do so! This is the same mentality that inspired the Inquisition and forced Galileo Galilei to recant. The same mentality that inspired the Nazis and led to the Holocaust. Once the freedom of speech gets placed in the straitjacket of the official truth, then the madness that occurs in all totalitarian states is obtained. Life, both private and public, becomes a meaningless charade where delusion thrives and terror rules.*

British writer Phyllis Dorothy James (n. 1920) stated the following: *„I believe that political correctness can be a form of linguistic fascism, and it sends shivers down the spine of my generation who went to war against fascism”* The USA President, George Bush, stated that: *The notion of „political correctness” declares certain topics off-limits, certain expression off-limits, even certain gestures off-limits. What began as a crusade for civility has soured into a cause of conflict and censorship.* In a speech held on May 2011, Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall declared: *„political correctness is as severe a form of censorship as any”*⁵.

In the spirit of those already announced, we will however venture to analyze events that have already occurred, trying to take a look in the not too distant future starting from the paradigm: we are alone and maybe against all (Great Britain) or we are together in the EU (France) and then we accept. And if we accept, what is the trend and what are we heading to?

2. 2016 was a year marked by major changes

2.1. The European Union had, at least apparently, consistent and flexible public policies, which were adapted to the current situation and which were intended to enable the member states to have periods of social and economic development.

The crisis of sovereign debts and especially the financial crisis of Greece, the crisis of the migration from the Middle East to Europe, especially generated by the civil war of Syria, highlighted rigid European

institutional structures, unable to make consistent and fast decisions. The response time and the bureaucracy of Brussels proved to be out of touch with political, economic and social realities, managing to widen the gap between the European citizens and governing institutions. Under these terms, the wave of scepticism towards the European constitution reached a level that has never been encountered in the 60 years since the creation of the Union.

In countries such as France, Italy, Great Britain, Poland, Hungary, Netherlands and others, the feeling of uncertainty, called Euroscepticism, towards the protection granted by the structures of the European Union reached emergency levels. The first country which, by means of its representatives, called the citizens to decide on the staying in or leaving the European Union was Great Britain. At that time, there were few analysts who predicted correctly the outcome of British referendum of June 23rd, 2016. By the time of the Brexit, very few insiders were aware of the existence of article 50⁶ of the Treaty on the European Union, which provides the possibility of a Member State to leave voluntarily the Union.

The waves of migration, the specter of escalation of terrorism, the economic developments, the demonstrations and protests, the vanity of the great European powers on the background of an aggressive policy of Russia⁷, all made possible the well known outcome. For the first time in its history, the European Union reduces the number of members by activating article 50 of the Treaty of Lisbon, which is expected to occur by the end of March 2017 (the meeting of Rome of March 25th, 2017 for the 60th anniversary of the Rome treaties establishing the European Community).

After the Second World War, despite the eternal rivalry between France and Germany (France-Russia alliance versus triple alliance Germany, Italy and Austria-Hungary), the German people managed slightly better than the French people to integrate the refugees of Algeria and the Polish people forced to leave Ukraine. If at the beginning of the last century we talked about the concept of the “White man’s burden” to civilize the societies considered primitive, nowadays Germany and France are trying together to integrate the massive wave of Arab migrants. If after the war the migrants came from countries with customs, religions or cultures which were somehow similar, nowadays we are facing a completely different situation. In Germany,

² Matei Vișinec, O nouă dictatură-gândirea politică corectă.

³ Political Correctness (From 'Decline Of Ideas' part of 'A Study Of Our Decline' by P Atkinson).

⁴ Political correctness and the right to freedom of speech, p. 37.

⁵ The A-Z of political correctness.

⁶ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cmsUpload/st06655-re02.ro08.doc> - articolul 50:

(1) Any Member State can decide, according to its constitutional requirements, to withdraw from the Union.

(2) A Member State which decides to withdraw shall notify the European Council of its intention. In the light of the guidelines provided by the European Council, the Union shall negotiate and conclude an agreement with that State, setting out the arrangements for its withdrawal, taking account of the framework for its future relationship with the Union. That agreement shall be negotiated in accordance with Article 218(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. It shall be concluded on behalf of the Union by the Council, acting by a qualified majority, after obtaining the consent of the European Parliament.

⁷ www.caleaeuropeana.ro.

after 2010, 5.8% of the population is represented by the Muslims, in France 7.5% of the population and in Russia 10% and the percentages have increased a lot (at least in Germany) after the wave of migrants in 2015.

What was the cause of this phenomenon? What happened with the changing of the alliances pattern or with the old rivalries? As shown in the previous CKS articles, most migrants come from countries in military conflicts. But why did a part of the Europeans hurry to receive them?

The literature⁹ gives contradictory examples on the effects of the migration on the economic and social

of the productivity and the decrease of the foreign investments in the home country. Furthermore, the emigration of a large part of the workforce from a country results in the increase of the financial obligations (taxes, charges) of the workers who remain in the country, in their capacity of budget revenue supporters.

Furthermore, in conclusion, we can state that an advantage of the host country becomes a disadvantage of the home country of the emigrants, and vice versa, the advantages of leaving the home country in a state of conflict may lead to serious problems, especially

Table 1: List of countries by GDP (nominal)

The list of the World Bank 2015*			The List of the United Nations 2014**		
position	country	Global GDP \$ 77,507,491 mil.	position	country	Global GDP \$ 73,433,644 mi.l
		GDP (in mil. dollars)			GDP (in mil. dollars)
-	E.U.	18,460,646	-	E.U.	18,518,430
1.	U.S.A.	17,946,996	1.	U.S.A.	17,348,072
2.	China	10,866,444	2.	China	10,430,590
4.	Germany	3,355,772	4.	Germany	3,868,291
5.	United Kingdom	2,848,755	5.	United Kingdom	2,988,893
6.	France	2,424,682	6.	France	2,889,192
18.	Turkey	718,221	18.	Turkey	798,414

Source: [https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lista_tarilor_in_functie_de_PIB_\(nominal\)](https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lista_tarilor_in_functie_de_PIB_(nominal))

* „GDP (current US\$)”. *World Development Indicators*. World Bank. Accessed on July 2nd, 2016.

** „GDP and its breakdown at current prices in US Dollars”. United Nations Statistics Division. December 1st, 2015.

status of the host country or home country. The positive effect for the host countries would consist in the reviving of the physically and morally worn workforce. Europeans in particular, and maybe all developed countries, are facing

population aging phenomenon, both an aging in terms of the average age and also an aging of customs, traditions and lifestyle. But the negative effects of the migration for the host country would be linked to the changes in what concerns the volume and the structure of the employees and to the lowering of the minimum wage.

Another positive aspect, this time for the home countries (according to Global News Intelligence of February 3rd, 2017) would be the transfers of emigrants (of money and goods) to the home countries. Money transfers are a reliable source of external financing generating a steady income in the home countries of the migrants. Constant revenue encourages the domestic consumption and reduces poverty and increases the standard of living. At the same time, skilled workforce migration to more developed regions causes a significant loss of income, a slowing of the development and of the economic growth, the decrease

security problems for the host country.

2.2. Turkey was, until the summer of 2016, the most solid Western ally in the Middle East and the most modern and developed country of the Muslim area. The proof is the 18th position among the powerful countries of the world by the size of the GDP. Furthermore, Turkey was and is still considered a democratic, secular, unitary, constitutional republic, with an old cultural and historical heritage. Given its strategic location, the developed economy and modernized army, Turkey is classified as a regional power by the politicians and economists worldwide. Turkey has become increasingly integrated by means of the western membership in organizations such as the European Council, NATO, OECD, OSCE and major economies G-20. Turkey began complete negotiations with the EU in 2005, has been an associate member of the European Economic Community since 1963 and reached the customs union agreement in 1995. Furthermore, Turkey promoted the cultural, political, economic and industrial relationships with the East, in particular with the Middle East and the Turkish states of Central Asia, by means of the membership to organizations such as Islamic Conference and Economic Cooperation Organization.

⁸ www.gandul.info.

⁹ Monica Roman and Cristina Voicu, ASE, Câteva efecte socioeconomice ale migrației forței de muncă asupra țărilor de emigrație, *Economie teoretică și aplicativă* Vol.XVII 2010 no. 7 pp. 50-65.

By maintaining its pro-Western orientation, the relationships with Europe have always been a central part of Turkish foreign policy. Another defining aspect of the external relations of Turkey was represented by its relations with the USA. Based on the common threats posed by the Soviet Union, Turkey joined NATO in 1952, by ensuring close bilateral relations with the United States during Cold War.

On July 15th, 2016 a failed coup d'etat organized by the Council of Peace, a group of soldiers of the Armed Forces of Turkey occurred in Turkey. The coup was confirmed both by the prime minister and by the president who called the people to street protests. There were certain doubts on the authenticity of the coup attempt: the coup starts in the evening and it is limited to major cities such as Ankara and Istanbul, no member of the government or of the parliament was taken hostage, and the media was not prohibited to broadcast the events. The way the Turkish President benefited from the coup attempt is noteworthy: his popularity increased and he received support in order for his function to be converted in an executive presidency. The consequences of the coup consisted of long lists of arrested persons, including over 2,000 judges, hundreds of thousands of dismissals and generally the removal of undesirable persons or persons disliked by the government.

As shown, the strategic location, the developed economy and modernized army make Turkey a great regional power which managed to stand as a safeguard against the huge wage of migrants coming to Europe. Notwithstanding, the events triggered by the coup d'etat brought forward all the relationships that Turkey hardly established with the European Union. Therefore, the accession process will be particularly difficult and will probably take decades due to the fact that cultural, religious and even attitude disagreements between Turkish citizens and European Union citizens still exist.

2.3. The election year of 2016 of the **United States of America** was initially expected to be a gallop for the health of democratic candidate Hillary Clinton. The most optimistic republican analysts estimated in early 2016 a close race between the democratic and the republican candidate but with a foreseeable victory for former Secretary of State Clinton. Throughout the preliminary elections and the direct campaign between the two final candidates, Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump, most of the polling houses believed that Mrs. Clinton could not lose the race for the White House. With few exceptions, the American media and a great part of the opinion leaders campaigned pro Clinton without anticipating the final outcome. The proof of the unexpected outcome was represented by the street protests of young Americans¹⁰ and the shock wave that hit the planet, the immediate fall of the US dollar by 2% and the losses of Asian stock exchange. Trump drew attention on domestic policy issues, such as illegal

immigration, offshoring, on the issue of the American jobs abroad, on the national debt of the United States and Islamic terrorism; all these were important subjects during his election campaign. He launched his campaign slogan "*Make America Great Again*". Furthermore, throughout his election campaign, Trump said that he contemned political correctness¹¹ trying to return America to its citizens.

Republican representative Donald Trump won the race for White House following the elections of 2016 although he lost the national popular vote with a difference of almost 3 million votes, namely 2.1% of the total votes. After taking over his position, on January 2017, Donald Trump becomes the oldest American president and the first president who did not benefit from a prior government or military experience. Although he is considered arrogant, conceited, populist and sometimes sexist, after a blind test conducted by a group of evaluators, Trump achieved the highest score of all Republican competitors. All those who listened to recordings of texts and speeches unanimously recognized that the use of first person pronoun, the grandness, richness, dynamics and tone, but especially informal type communication were in favor of Donald Trump. Anyway, the election of the 45th US president in the person of Donald Trump means a major change of paradigm after decades of continuity of US policy.

2.4. 2016 revealed, besides many other inconsistencies, the increase of the number of states the governments of which show real pro-Russian sympathies although they are members of the European Union and partners of NATO (Hungary, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Greece and Turkey). Therefore, by means of the presidential elections which occurred last year, Bulgaria and Republic of Moldova also entered the pro-Russian sympathies area. Therefore, the Republic of Moldova risks to move away from the pro-European and pro-Atlantic ideal. Therefore, the cohesion within the European Union and NATO are seriously questioned.

3. 2017 - a year of certainties?

3.1. As of the beginning of 2017 (January) the glooms of the analysts found their resonance in the first measures taken by Trump administration. Therefore, a series of measures were proposed for the protection of American workers and for the restoration of the security and of the rule of law: the renegotiation of the North American Free Trade Agreement, the immediate withdrawal of the United States from transpacific partnership, the claiming of China as "currency manipulator country" at the World Trade Organization (WTO), the annulment of "millions of dollars allocated for the UN" in the program on climate change control and the withdrawal of the United States from the

¹⁰ Przybyla, Heidi M; Schouten, Fredreka (January 22nd, 2017) USA Today.

¹¹ this policy recommends avoiding forms of expression which marginalize or insult socially disadvantaged persons, disabled persons or those who were discriminated on grounds of gender, race, ethnicity, etc.

“Treaty of Paris”¹². Furthermore, the limitation of the number of mandates of the officials elected in the American Congress is proposed, as well as the repeal of health insurance program “Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act” or popularly called Obamacare¹³ introduced in 2010, program in which millions of Americans signed in order to get access to medical services. In fact, the program meant the existence of a redistributive system whereby young, healthy, good financial persons, who benefited from health insurance paid by the employer were bound¹⁴ to subsidize the elderly, poor health, low income or low paid jobs persons. Furthermore, Trump administration wants the annulment of all Obama decrees. In what concerns the migrants, the new leader of the White House proposes the expulsion of the “two millions of undocumented criminals” and the annulment of the visas for the countries which refuse to take them back. Furthermore, the suspension of visas for “regions affected by terrorism”, building a boundary wall on the border with Mexico, financed in full by the Mexicans and the modification of visa regulations. Other proposals provide tax cuts, introduction of customs fees in order to sanction the societies which delocalize their production, consolidation of the army etc.

The new American administration orientations can radically change the trend of liberalization of the international trade of the last 20 years with major repercussions on the upward trend of the economy of the last two, three years.

3.2. Unfortunately, the situation of France before the wave of migrants, which unhappily overlaps a growing and little integrated Muslim population, represented a rebirth of the feelings against Islamist migration, which were somehow dormant over the past 40 years. The terrorist attacks of France and Belgium made the very heart of Europe bleed. Brussels is broken in two and makes the capital of Europe itself to be an extremely unsafe city.

The French presidential elections will be held most likely in two rounds, on April 23rd and May 7th, the legislative elections for the National Assembly will take place on June 11th-18th and for the Senate on September 23rd. According to the polls Marine Le Pen has the best chance to win¹⁵ the presidency of France. The inconsistency comes from the fact that Mrs. Le Pen is known as the leader of far-right party National Front. Mrs. Le Pen believes that the political divisions in Europe are not far-right or far-left but they are classified as “populist and globalist” and she is on the globalist side as the most occidental leaders of the Western world. Notwithstanding, the government program of Mrs. Le Pen provides the waiver of the

single European currency and the organization of a referendum on leaving the European Union. The slogan used by Donald Trump which still seems to be of great interest is rephrased by Marine Le Pen: “Give France freedom back and give the people a voice” seems detached from an instruction manual for winning presidential elections.

All these problems encountered by French society which overlap Hollande government which is considered to be the weakest government in the history of the Republic, the proof of this being the data on the significant decrease of the GDP between 2014 and 2015, public deficits in 2017 (-4.7%) and in 2018 (-4.5%), appear to go in favor of Mrs. Le Pen. Another way for France could be the winning of the elections by liberal François Fillon, former French prime minister, who proposes the most drastic austerity program¹⁶. The former prime minister of Nicolas Sarkozy undertook that, if he is elected president in May 2017, he will implement a saving program of 110 billion Euros in public finances. A third of the expenditure reduction would be on the account of the state budget, 20% from the local collectivities, and the rest from the social security budget (by retirement at the age of 65, the reduction of health costs). In order to achieve these savings, François Fillon promises to abolish 500,000 budget jobs, to raise the retirement age at 65 in 2022, to harmonize the retirement regime, to impose a work program of 39 hours in the budgetary system. For economy recovery, Fillon promises the injection of 40 billion Euros in order to reduce tax burden on the companies and to decrease the taxes for the companies to 25%, all this being financed by an increase of two points of the VAT. The question is if the French accept at least 5 years of austerity, on the one hand, and on the other hand, the simple presence at Elysee palace of a representative of Euroscepticism and of an opponent of the European currency would generate distrust on the international financial markets. Even a potential failure of the referendum which would question the membership of France with the European Community would cause major changes on the community policies.

Regardless of the alternative chosen by the French, on the short term, a solution to the threat of terror (France is under siege as of November 2015 and the siege will be extended until July 2017) and to the risk of economic downturn deepening must be found.

3.3. As of the establishment (1993 after the Maastricht Treaty when the European Economic Community became EU) and until present, EU did not face more controversial parliamentary or presidential election than those occurring this year. Therefore, will the federal parliamentary elections of September 24th of

¹² The Treaty of Paris (the conference of November 30th – December 11th) on the climate changes came into force on November 4th, 2016.

¹³ http://adevarul.ro/international/statele-unite/donald-trump-dat-startul-sfarsitului-obamacare-1_5882bdfb5ab6550cb8a304cf/index.html.

¹⁴ The program was mandatory by applying a fine to those who failed or did not want to contribute; http://www.primm.ro/ce-ar-trebui-sa-retina-romania-din-lectia-americana--obamacare_1121.html.

¹⁵ Calea Europeană; Added by Robert Lupitu on 04/02/2017. Saved under U.E. Tags: alegeri Franta 2017, alegeri in franta, alegeri prezidentiale franta 2017, franta, Marine Le Pen, Uniunea Europeana.

¹⁶ https://www.dcnnews.ro/fran-ois-fillon-poate-schimba-politica-fran-ei_523145.html.

Germany, bring again to the forefront the concept of “political correctness”¹⁷? Or will the Germans look around and ask for “a Germany only of Germans”? Germany is the economic engine of Europe’s development despite all the problems it has faced in the recent years. It is the first and most powerful European country in terms of the development of macroeconomic indicators (USD 3,355,772 billion in 2015, third place after the United States of America, Japan and China), and the main promoter of migration policy.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel is considered by the German and European public opinion as the politician who opened the gates of Europe for the wave of migration and for its related hazards. The opening of the borders performed by Merkel raised major security issues both in Germany, and across Europe, problems which have not represented such a great danger even since the Second World War. Public opinion saw in these pro-migration measures a lack of analysis and predictability which is difficult to accept in case of an administration with so much experience like the administration of Mrs. Merkel. The almost total overlooking of the danger of increasing terrorist risk, the overlooking of the French experience of over 40 years on the difficulty of integrating Muslim societies in the society of Western values could not be without visible consequences in the polls of popularity of the German cabinet. The premise of Berlin cabinet on the settlement of young labor force shortage by means of Syrian refugees is fundamentally wrong. The model of German society (usually Western) and the Muslim society are and shall be in complete antithesis and their harmonization cannot fit in a reasonable timeframe and without undesirable repercussions. It is hard to believe that a Western, traditional society will easily accept to change its lifestyle and social, moral and cultural values in order to facilitate the integration of the newcomers, with more rigid concepts. It is believed that more than a half of German voters would vote for democratic social chancellor Martin Schulz (twice president of the European Parliament between 2012-2017), compared to 34 percentages for Christian Democratic Merkel. A potential defeat of Mrs. Merkel in September elections would be a clear signal given by the German society on the fact that it does not accept, even for the sake of the economic growth, to abandon its principles and values.

In this context, in full agreement with the Eurosceptics, the economic and political analysts, including the governor of the National Bank of Romania, Mugur Isărescu believe that we are facing great changes of position of the countries before the international trade treaties, which will lead to great economic, political and geostrategic disturbances. The US elections, the British vote for leaving the European Union and the elections which will occur in France and Germany marks the end of globalization, as perceived

by now, or at least its orientation to new position, a significant process of the last quarter of century.

Conclusions

A careful historical analysis reveals that as of the French Revolution (1789-1799) and until present, our evolution met in every century an average of three inflection periods which strongly influenced the mankind, changing its horizon of expectation. French Revolution was followed by the decline of the Napoleonic area of 1815, the European revolutions of 1848 and the Franco-Prussian War of 1870, which marked the 19th century. The beginning of the 20th century brings to the fore the First World War (1914-1918), considered a mistake¹⁸, with global repercussions, due to poor decisions made in crucial moments. American author John Stoessinger, global diplomacy professor, considers that the outbreak of the First World War was the direct result of bad decisions made by influential people in key positions at that point in time¹⁹. People in important areas lacking of empathy and trapped by self-deception made unreal decisions, according to the same author. Later, the Second World War (1939-1945) was marked by the growing of nationalism, racism, German Nazism, Italian fascism and Japanese militarism. The expansionist policy of Germany and Italy, the revisionism of states such as Germany, Soviet Union, Hungary or collective security system promoted by the League of Nations represented elements of instability across Europe. The reconfiguration of the global map (Tripartite Pact, Axis 1936), the decline of Western democracies led to the breaking in two of the Eastern Europe by signing the non-aggression treaty between Germany and USSR of 1939. The next are the revolutions of 1989 which changed the world, by the transfer of power in Eastern Germany (the fall of Berlin wall), Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria and Albania. The violent transfer of power in Romania, the collapse of the Soviet Union, the war in Yugoslavia and the bloody repression of the demonstrations in China meant a return of the people to primitive times, by fault of the world great powers.

The events meant powerful transformations with devastating impact on the economic, political and social life. If we think about the changing of the communist totalitarian regime in the Eastern Europe and the modification of all state structures caused by the establishment of the democracy, privatization of state owned enterprises, private property establishment, the emergence of small business, the change of the commercial partnerships and the attempts to establish a state of law, all these meant several years of failed attempts for a number of states. All these events which

¹⁷ Lind, William S.; Dirlău, Andrei; Bazon, Irina: *Corectitudinea politică. "Religia" marxistă a noii ordini mondiale*, 314 p, Rost Publishing House, 2015.

¹⁸ Henry Kissinger, *Diplomația*, BIC ALL Publishing House 2003.

¹⁹ John Stoessinger *Why Nations Go to War* edition XI, Cengage Learning Publishing House, 2010.

are clearly cyclical make us believe that the history keeps repeating and that we are caught in the whirl of events heading towards something. Furthermore, a recent Freedom house²⁰ report points out that in the recent years the European and global democracy has been in real danger due to the accession to power of populist and nationalist groups in countries such as Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, Czech Republic or Serbia. The report stresses potential adverse evolutions, throughout 2017 in Czech Republic, Denmark and USA.

The economic and social environment cannot develop without a strong rule of law, which has no political, social and legislative stability. Domestic investors, and especially foreign investors, expect seriousness and predictability from the decision making bodies of the areas where they want to invest. Militant populism and nationalism can offer neither stability, nor predictability, but unfulfilled promises, major budget deficit and uncertainty. In conclusion, the biggest certainty of 2017 is the uncertainty.

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²⁰ Freedom in the World 2017.