

Perspectives and Challenges for the Peace

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Abstract

Current challenges for the peace are threatening the world probably more than ever before in the history of the humanity. The said challenges represents the consequences of the lack of the political will to resolve the conflicts and open issues in the best interest of all participating sides, which emerged because of the obvious neglecting of the basic postulates of diplomacy and international relations. Therefore, the rebuild of trust in the international relations as well as the necessity to restore the basic diplomacy postulates need to be reinforced.

Ancient history of the humanity – as well as the nowadays one – is full of testimonies about our violent behavior. Although the human race should be evolving in time, it seems there are no political will to suffocate the primal instincts for domination as well as for imposition of the violent “politically correct solutions” acting in the name of democracy.

Current developments all around the world make no room for the optimism in the eye of an independent observer. And wherever the attention is to be focused – possible conclusions will lead us to the dark anticipated outcomes, because there are too many conflicting interests from various sides.

From the beginning of the war that Russia launched against Ukraine it looked like the collective West could have been capable to become the regulative factor of the crisis in that part of the world (which is very important as the global granary as well as the traditional route for the cheap and available energy). However, opposed geopolitical interests of the interested sides did not lead to the sustainable compromise. The consequences are now more than obvious: (1) Russia has been amputated from the Europe and from the western part of the world regardless of the Russian clearly and publicly announced “security interests and concerns”, without any kind of consideration of those claims and how (un)founded those "interests and concerns" may be; (2) Lack of the cheap and (once) available natural gas caused inevitable turbulences in economies (primarily in Europe); (3) “Green Agenda” in Europe has been a little bit postponed and energy from coal is not so unacceptable in this moment as it was before the war; (4) Destabilized European economies under the circumstances of the war that is still raging showed to be a fertile soil for the growing of the populist movements from the right (as well as far right) side of the political spectrum; (5) Growing fear of the “Russian Bear” is therefore spreading along Europe which has led to the conditions for the NATO to head further to the East – making it not only possible but necessary, too; (6) Migrant flows again became more intensive including the rise of the negative migration policies across the European continent (making islamophobic and racist stances almost the mainstream public discourse in the significant number of European countries); etc.

Tragic confrontations and the resurrection of the frozen hostilities between the Israel and the Hamas recently entered the new phase of destruction including intensifying of the Israeli Defense Forces campaigns and retaliations of the other side. Without any ambition to “judge the guilty” of one or the other side – for sure it could be noted that the hatred and animosities are undoubtedly almost completely out of control. Furthermore, there are so many side spectators that could (or will?) easily “jump into the game” and start “to put out the fire with gasoline”.

The United States of America almost immediately sent significant maritime forces to the wider region but that action was just the cause for the reactions and the violation of the fragile region stability. And very soon – just few hours before these rows are being written – USA and United Kingdom “conducted strikes against a number of targets in Yemen used by Houthi rebels to endanger freedom of navigation in one of the world’s most vital waterways” – as the American President Joseph Biden announced – using support from Australia, Bahrain, Canada, and the

Netherlands. Consequently, free flow of goods is seriously jeopardized and the voyages are more and more frequently being rerouted around the Cape of Good Faith at the south tip of African continent, causing more expensive and almost 10.000 kilometers longer sailing. Under the described situation, some of the Western countries are aligning themselves with the US & UK strikes, while some of the interested countries in the world are representing slightly more careful stances. Saudi Arabia, for example, is expressing the “great concern” urging for "self-restraint and avoiding escalation", while China “urge the relevant parties to keep calm and exercise restraint to prevent the conflict from expanding". Waiting for the European view to the US & UK strikes on the targets in Yemen at first there was no unified political position in the European Union. Few countries, at the national level though, supported this attack – but as the act of defense – yet before trying to find the consensus at the European level.

In the same time, South Africa accused Israel of committing "genocidal" acts in Gaza and submitted the Request for the indication of provisional measures to the International Court of Justice in Hague. Consequently, and after mid-January public hearings that lasted for two days, International Court of Justice ordered Israel (on January 26th 2024) to do more to prevent the killing and harm of civilians in Gaza. However, in the ruling there were no calls for an immediate cease-fire. Therefore, it is expected the court’s decision will put more pressure on the Israeli side – at least in the time to come – although Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu commented the ruling as “not only false but outrageous”. Having on mind that court’s decision is legally binding but it's not easy to be enforced the implementation of the ruling will be controversial and questionable because of different interpretations of the interested sides. Therefore, most likely it will not have the significant influence in the efforts to resolve the tragic situation in this neuralgic spot of the world.

Finally, there is “one million dollars question” and that is how this year’s forthcoming elections around the world will influence the global security situation?

It is of significant importance which elections are being considered. There is no doubt that the presidential elections in the United States of America (including high tensions between two biggest political parties – and simplified at the lowest level: Biden or Trump) will have one of the greatest impact globally. Also, recently held elections on Taiwan could endanger the peace in

the Far East having on mind that official Beijing considers Taiwan as the integral part of China and for sure would strongly try to prevent Taiwan in possible further distancing from its motherland. Not less important will be the elections for the European Parliament that will show if the cohesion forces are stronger than the populist and right movements inside EU. At last, elections in India or maybe in North Korea or Russia potentially could be very influential for the world security. The truth is that the year of 2024 will be election year for more than 70 countries and more than 50% of the world population will be called to vote in some kind of election process. The outcome of those elections will most likely initiate some kind of establishing new balances, which probably will not stimulate the stability but the turbulence.

Hence, one of the most important things would be that the world leaders and the decision makers at soonest get back to the “old school” of diplomacy and get rid of the currently used counterproductive phrases like “we must prevail” or “they must not win”. It is legitimate to protect ones interests and to fight for that using all diplomatic means, but it is simply not acceptable to try to achieve ones goals by violent imposing of the “solutions”. Furthermore – any kind of injustice in international relations cannot be “buried” and this sort of “bad seed” will become the tree with extremely bitter fruit for the future generations. Therefore, it is in the best interest of the millions that the most acceptable shade of gray is to be found before making the irreparable damage.

After all – history is witnessing all our previous mistakes.