



KNOWLEDGE AND SECURITY IN MODERN SOCIETY THROUGH INTELLIGENCE

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Abstract: *THE AUTHOR ADDRESSES THE ISSUE OF KNOWLEDGE AND SECURITY IN MODERN SOCIETY THROUGH INTELLIGENCE. STARTING FROM THE DESIDERATUM OF THE EVOLUTION OF THE HUMAN BEING THROUGH KNOWLEDGE AND OF ENSURING THE STATE OF SECURITY AS AN INDISPENSABLE CONDITION OF EVOLUTION, THE ROLE AND NECESSITY OF INFORMATION IN THE COMPLEX DYNAMICS NECESSARY FOR THEIR FULFILLMENT ARE HIGHLIGHTED.*

THE SIGNIFICANCE AND CONTENT OF INFORMATION, COMBINED WITH ITS JUDICIOUS USE, CAN TURN IT INTO A RESOURCE FOR MAXIMIZING POWER GLOBALLY, IN TODAY'S SOCIETY MARKED BY A DIVERSE RANGE OF CLASSIC OR ASYMMETRIC RISKS AND THREATS.

THE NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION, A COMPLEX NOTION THAT IS THE ATTRIBUTE OF THE INTELLIGENCE INSTITUTIONS, HAS A DEFINING ROLE IN THE INFORMATIVE COMMUNICATION NECESSARY TO ENSURE THE BALANCE OF THE SECURITY EQUATION, ITS VALENCES BEING HIGHLIGHTED BY THE OPTIMAL INTERACTION BETWEEN THE INTELLIGENCE INSTITUTIONS AND THE STRATEGIC DECISION MAKER.

COLLATERAL TO THE CLASSICAL PERSPECTIVES OF THE CONCEPT OF INTELLIGENCE (PROCESS, PRODUCT ORGANIZATION), THE AUTHOR ACQUIESCES TO THE IDEA THAT INTELLIGENCE HAS BECOME A BRANCH OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCES, WITH AN IDEOLOGICAL CORPUS AND A SPECIFIC NORMATIVE CORPUS, WHICH AIMS TO IDENTIFY ANTICIPATORY SOLUTIONS TO THE SECURITY PROBLEMS OF TODAY'S SOCIETY.

Keywords: *KNOWLEDGE, SECURITY, INTELLIGENCE, THREAT, COUNTERACTION.*

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1. KNOWLEDGE AND SECURITY - THE DESIDERATA OF HUMANITY

Approaches to human evolution by capitalizing on the knowledge provided by the information obtained and processed, as well as the need for security in general, defined as the absence of danger, have been existential human goals, from ancient times to the present (Flavius Cristian Marcau, Mihaela Andreea Ciorei, 2013a, pp. 301-311). Compared to the mode of action, the two needs listed above, although it can be said that they characterized individual or collective behaviors of distinct entities such as intellectual structure, vision, aspirations or objectives, supplemented and sometimes complemented each other, under the impetus of the supreme sacrifice, either of the misunderstood scholars at the time who were aiming to promote ideas that supported knowledge, or of the people of arms who fought for the transformation of the planned and organized violence into a trivial everyday fact, the struggle and the expansion representing the forms of manifestation of the power to be enhanced in any way. (Peptan, 2018)

Therefore, the evolution of humanity was marked by the effects of knowledge in the sense of „science, news, knowledge (~ of things.)”, which have contributed to the development of social life in all its aspects, from the material to the spiritual, but all knowledge, in the sense of „possession, mastery”- if we were to give a forced interpretation of its definition (dexonline.ro, 2020), was the basis of the many state conflicts that marked the 20th century devastatingly, making it one of the „extremes”, „totalitarianisms” or „dirty wars” (Hobsbawm, 2016, pp. 104-117), and even the first decades of the present century, if we refer to the new proteiform morphology covered by the scourge of terrorism.

An x-ray of the geopolitical situation in the last three decades could highlight the deterioration of the security climate in more and more regions of the world, the main cause being what specialists call the end of the bipolar international order and the transition to the "multipolar international order", in which the state entities act, as a rule, individually and concordedly in order to increase their own spheres of influence and to maximize the power resource, from a military, economic, political or informational point of view, well known being that their dynamics are directly proportional to the „potential of exercising the power policy”. (Muir, 1981, citată în Panu, 2018, p. 130) Although historical determinism plays an important role in providing pertinent answers to developments in the dynamics of the security equation, geopolitical interference is currently at the root of maintaining a high potential for instability, especially in states in a sinuous process of transition to democracy. In addition, systemic crises of a social, economic or political nature, often changed into real socio-political diseases that are exacerbated by various forms of aggression within or even between states, make it difficult for specialists to make assessments, in reasonable time, related to the evolutions of the security equation. (Peptan a, 2019, pp. 53-55)

Uncertainty seems to characterize, today more than ever, the social life as a whole, but in a very particular way the global security environment, the unusual and unexpected relationships and dynamics that characterize the classic threats, but especially the asymmetrical or hybrid ones, which are often being uncontrollable and producing effects of proximity expansion, which affect the security equation as a whole. In this context, the ability of states to take coherent security policy decisions is often put to the test and requires coherent and convergent action at regional or international level.

A major problem that characterizes the contemporary world is represented by the emphasised deficit of trust between states, the antagonistic dyad „friend-enemy”, issue brought to the public space by German political scientist Carl Schmitt, imprinting on the background the manifestation of international relations, both between state entities that are part of the same civilizational systems and claim the same interests and between states between which, historically, there have been divergences, latent or manifest, with varying degrees of intensity.

The unprecedented exacerbation of the forms of manifestation of threats in contemporary society, whether we are talking about authoritarian-totalitarian regimes that violate the rights of



citizens, non-performing governance, endemic corruption, risks with economic causation, polarization of society and widening the gap between the poor and the rich, demographic growth, the lack of education, the large number of young people without perspective, have created the premises for the emergence of new unconventional security risks, asymmetric or hybrid, components of the „new war” (Klador, 2007, p. 23), such as terrorism, illegal migration and human trafficking, drug trafficking, cross-border crime and last but not least, cybercrime. Although a large part of them have their origins, mainly, in state entities „dominated by chaos and illegality” (Riccardi, 2006, p. 106), being fueled by an unfortunate mixture of social, economic, political, educational and cultural issues (Tasgin & Cam, 2016, p. 86.), their area of manifestation has become a global one, which makes it difficult to prevent and combat with the classical, traditional means.

We observe, therefore, that in modern society the concept of security extends its conceptual area beyond „military affairs”, to areas that seem to be more the prerogative of a „non-military” (Troncotă, 2008, p.5) society, becoming much more evasive and harder to understand, detected and accepted by a part of the civil society, although it plays an important role in achieving security.

2. INFORMATION - BASIS OF KNOWLEDGE

Information, both as a meaning and as a new element of knowledge, has always been a valuable weapon of the one who held it, regardless of whether we are talking about private or state entities, which is why well-informed minds of humanity have launched the famous expression: Knowledge Means Power. Viewed as a representation of everyday reality, but also as the reflection and projection of the human being, the information is the apanage of knowledge, conscious and specialized, the particular meaning of the message transmitted through it.

From the point of view of security interests, the information obtained from a multitude of sources, secret, technical or open, must bring to the addressee, ie the legally authorized beneficiary, an increase of knowledge through the novelty elements offered, so that the decision of strategic interest is substantiated by a „real and efficient informational support, prospective and anticipatory, with guarantees of veracity and professional correspondence, which should reflect not only the structure and functioning of the system subject to the decision, but also its informational links with its functional environment” (Dabu, 2001, p. 33).

The interest for information, regardless of the entity that captures it or to whom it is addressed, is aroused only in the context in which it fulfills the essential characteristics (Obreja & Rusu, 2009, pp. 35-37): objectivity (to be error free and without prejudices with objective or subjective causation), completeness (to contain a minimum of elements that provide knowledge in accordance with the interests of the recipient), accuracy (the ability to highlight through content objective reality, unaltered by interests or prejudices), opportunity (the need for the information to reach the recipient in time to provide the elements of knowledge required to make the best decision for the time being), the usability (to be characterized by clarity, conciseness, ease of understanding by the receiving entity), relevance (the characteristic of providing the recipient with the expected elements of novelty regarding its issue of interest), availability (expressed by the ease and speed with which the information is accessed), reliability (the ability to „preserve” its content unaltered from capture to revaluation), verifiability (the characteristic of the information to be subjected to evaluation and comparison through third modes), value (the ability to respond to the waiting horizon of the receiver in the perspective of its capitalization).

A particular feature is the way of ensuring the knowledge necessary to achieve the balance of the security equation through information. The rapid access of state decision-makers to open source information, facilitated by the IT&C revolution, may rightly raise the question of whether national



security information is still needed to meet a number of characteristics¹ (Nițu, 2012, p. 36.), which often makes it difficult to process and manage, if we also consider the fact that they are subject to restrictions imposed by specific legislation.² However, national security information maintains its role as a defining and indispensable element of the informative communication necessary to ensure the security equation, precisely through the particular meanings revealed in the content³, presumed to be of particular importance and utility for the beneficiary, in particular strategic decision maker, in substantiating the decision-making process for national interest. (Peptan b, 2019, pp. 39-45) It should also be mentioned that the beneficiaries of national security information are interested in accessing it before the occurrence of events with an impact on the security equation (antefactum), in order to understand their significance and to adopt optimal prevention measures, in the context of making an imminent decision when they are interested in choosing the best option for action, respectively after the occurrence of unwanted events that produce security consequences (postfactum), in order to be able to act in the sense of diminishing their consequences. (Nițu, 2012, p.197).

For these reasons, the national security information is the basis of informative support of the strategic decision makers, helping them understand the dynamics of the risk factors and the threats to the national security and to reveal the negative consequences on the national security values on different areas of interest.

3. INTELLIGENCE AND STRATEGIC KNOWLEDGE

Although the classical perspectives of the concept of „intelligence” are represented by the triad process - organization – product (Nițu, 2012, p. 26), intelligence is assimilated by the great mass of public opinion with the information obtained from secret activities that is the object of informing the strategic decision maker. In reality, the meaning of the concept is much more complex, if we assimilate it only with a „weapon of the mind” involved in a „war of the mind” that contributes to the identification of security risks and threats, or with a „weapon of the state” that is used to prevent or counter threats that have as modus operandi extreme forms of violence, such as terrorism. (Maior, 2010, pp. 21 -22)

The growing needs for security and safety, indispensable to social life⁴, as well as those subsumed to guarantee the security of the state and its institutions, or the desire to obtain supremacy over opponents, although „absolute power is, more than ever, an illusion” (Maior, 2009, pp. 42 -43), determined the state entities to conceptualize and operationalize intelligence structures. They are meant to provide the knowledge elements necessary to guarantee the social security, providing the state decision maker with the elements of understanding the security problem facing the society and at the same time creating the premises of the action framework for removing the security risks and shaping the future. Thus, „need” and „necessity” are the sources that trigger the action behavior of intelligence structures to obtain knowledge, in fact substantiating the missions of intelligence, respectively knowledge in advance and prevention of manifestations of risks, vulnerabilities and threats to the

¹ intelligence product - information that has been refined to meet the needs of decision makers; intelligence process - the sequence of activities through which information is identified, collected, analyzed, processed and disseminated; intelligence organization - individual entity that captures and models raw data in an intelligence product.

² Law no. 182/2002 on the protection of classified information, published in the Official Gazette, no. 248/12 April 2002, defines information classified as “information, data, documents of interest for national security that due to the levels of importance and consequences as a result of unauthorized disclosure or dissemination must be protected”.

³ risk estimates, warnings, security assessments, other specific types of documents.

⁴ respecting the fundamental rights and freedoms of citizens, as well as creating the right framework for manifesting the individual in accordance with their own aspirations.



values of intelligence state security (Flavius Cristian Marcau, Mihaela Andreea Ciorei, 2013b, pp. 1-11).

The evolution of intelligence, viewed from the perspective of the organization, was a non-linear one, marked by a cyclicity, with peaks determined by the three major conflicts of the 20th century, the two world conflagrations and the Cold War. In each of these situations, the states viewed intelligence as a weapon of defence and support for victory. Under intense pressure from war or quasi-war conditions, the power of intelligence expanded, its dimensions increased, becoming more and more skilled in fulfilling their threat assessment mission. The exit from the peak zone of the three conflicts determined the deepening in the invisibility zone of the intelligence structures - a situation that determines (also cyclically) the resumption of some processes of evaluation of their functionality and objectives (in the form of pressures of civil society and of politics).

The positioning of intelligence structures in relation to the management of state entities has taken various forms, from directing or determining internal policies or external relations - in the case of authoritarian-totalitarian regimes, to partner of decision-makers, respecting the needs of functional separation objectivity and neutrality - in the case of democratic regimes. Currently, information services are considered as institutions homogeneous to the states, characteristic not only of the western world but of the entire modern state architecture. The relationship between state and intelligence structures has been strengthened on the background of precarious state of national security, marked by the expansion of other states, the proliferation of unconventional risks and threats of non-military nature, which necessitated knowledge of immediate/ early preventive warning missions or for the elaboration of prevention and counteraction policies on medium and long term.

Against this complex, globalized background, current intelligence has been credited (Kupcikas, 2010) with having the most significant role so far in world politics, with effects in determining future relations between states - generated, for example, by the involvement of agencies in the fight against terrorism or other asymmetric threats.

Beyond these classical perspectives of the concept of „intelligence”, it has become a subject among more than 8000 subjects studied in the academic environment, still surrounded by a halo of "mysticism" and ignorance, although it has developed a methodology recognized in the academic world, a theoretical body and a doctrine, specific techniques and created and almost imposed a specific language. (Sherman, 2007) Moreover, in recent decades it has created an idea corpus that tries to explain the social and economic reality necessary to balance the security equation and even a normative corpus that seeks to bring to attention the social rules and behavior of the individual in society to achieve the goal of safety and security. Intelligence has become „a sphere of social sciences that seeks to anticipate problems of political, economic, social and military nature” (Shulsky & Schmitt, 2008, p. 9), which also has the role of educating society on how to know, prevent and counter societal threats, being well known that the citizen must himself become a generator of security in modern society.

Circumscribed with the need, in general, to reconsider the vision of education, which must „prepare people for the kind of society that (yet) does not exist” (Faure, 1974, p. 54), intelligence (not just as an academic subject) should be regarded as a means that competes with the evolution of society, but also as a vector of maximizing the power resource of the state entities. If the ancient Greek scholar Plato considered education as „the art of forming good manners” (Posescu, 1971, p.133) and Aristotle saw it as an „object of public oversight” (Aristotel, 1999, p. 157), modern intelligence, regarded this time as an academic subject, should not be seen as a domain of particular approaches, but as a “ubiquitous social practice, combining processes of knowledge and power and which is fundamental in any risk management”. (Gill, 2010. p. 45)

At the same time, the social status of intelligence determined the emergence of a rich literature that completed, well deservedly, the panoply of security strategic knowledge, and was supported /



promoted / confirmed by various cultural productions (literature for the general public, memoirs, film productions, etc.), which confirms its role and necessity in modern society.

4. CONCLUSIONS

In the context of the current evolution of the global society, information, in addition to significance and the new element of knowledge, has become a real force that generates, enhances and maximizes the power resource of state entities, contributing to changing the balance of power and ensuring global control by its owner.

At the same time, the information obtained and processed by intelligence system, generically called national security information, acquires a special significance representing the basis of informative communication at strategic security level, because it refers to a threat indicator against the security values, it confers new elements of knowledge at some point, it is characterized by opportunity and is obtained by special means.

The support given to the decision-makers of the state in the process of substantiating the decisions for achieving national security, as well as, some specific activities within the competence of the intelligence institutions such as the activity of prevention, protection, counteracting or promoting some national interests, are fundamental dimensions of the role of intelligence in achieving national security.

Beyond the classical perspectives of intelligence (process, organization, product), in the last decades it has become a sphere of social sciences and a subject in the academic environment, which aims to find anticipatory solutions to problems of a political nature, economic, social and military nature that contemporary society faces.



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