

## The negative side

*In the negative side*, we consider as Trends for Destabilization the following:

**a. Initially, the revival of ethnic nationalism.** After the end of the confrontation between the two worlds, the Balkan countries showed a trend to restore the "bonds" between the "nation" and the "state", trying to create "ethnically clean" states. This pursuit and suspicion for others are the main reasons for the conflicts in the area.

**b. Then, the lack of steady democratic institutions.** Nearly all the former communist countries have entered a troublesome transition period, trying to change the old structures, both in the political as well as in the economic field, and to create new ones. However, the lack of strong democratic institutions usually lead either to the creation of "personal" totalitarian regimes, or to permanent political unrest.

**c. Moreover, the Organized crime.** One of the characteristics of the economies that are at the phase of transition to a free market economy is the emergence of the organized crime. The organized crime finds an ideal ground to develop and strengthen in the former communist countries of the Balkans, due to the lack of strong institutions and control mechanisms. Thus, the organized crime takes advantage of the weak institutions, infiltrates the state and undermines every effort for modernization of the economy. We think that in the case of the Balkans, the organized crime is mostly behind ethnic nationalism.



Concerning the security threats and dangers in the Balkans we think that the *major threat for the Balkans is the dispute over the status quo* of the area, formed at the end of the 19th and the 20th centuries. On the other hand, we consider as *Dangers for the Security in the Balkans* the following:

a. First of all, Instability of the Balkan states.

(1) The biggest danger for the Balkans is the destabilization of some states in the area, as a possible result of:

a/ Ethnic conflicts

b/ Authoritative ethnic trends

c/ Economic collapse Such a possible destabilization of a country may be interpreted, by another country, as a chance to fulfill the irredentism ambitions, thus, resulting to a general instability in the Balkans.

b. Another danger is Mass immigration The increasing instability, in conjunction with the weak economies of the Balkan countries, creates the conditions for an immigration wave towards the neighboring countries and Europe.

c. Furthermore, there are Autonomist movements The autonomists believe that they will succeed in breaking away territories in the Balkans, through armed activities. The success in such activities reinforces their wish to, allow me the expression, "liberate" even more territories, without a foreseeable end.

d. Subsequently, we talk about International terrorism. The Balkans constitutes an ideal field for international terrorism, since all the necessary factors exist in the area, such as: nationalism, religious fundamentalism, ambitious politicians, displeased citizens and financially wretched parts of the population.

e. Ethnic nationalism and irredentism ambitions.

(1) Ethnic nationalism and irredentism ambitions constitute a danger, since they increase the suspicion among the Balkan states, seeking the change of the existing borders by violence.



(2) Nationalists, in their effort to create ethnic nations, are led to anti-democratic methods. Such an attitude deepens the gap between people and as a result making solutions through negotiations impossible.

**f. We should not neglect Organized Crime**

(1) The organized crime may probably pose a serious threat to the stability of the area. Weak economies combined with ineffective laws create the ideal conditions for organized crime activities.

(2) The close relationships of the organized crime with the authorities prevent the latter from taking appropriate measures that would result in modernization and development of the politico-economic system.