



Opinions Regarding State Resilience

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Abstract: Resilience is the phenomenon conferred by the possibility of individual or collective recovery, intervened after serious traumas. It requires the adoption of positive thinking, the mobilization of self and positive factors, to abandon the past and use a desire to overcome dramatic moments, restore the original standard of living and open the way to success in the future. In the current hybrid threats and confrontations, it makes it possible to overcome the hiatus imposed by the unfavorable state, instituted at the national level. The state is the key that ensures the vision of recovery, accumulates the social will, makes individual manifestations of success possible! The political factor, administrative structures and collectivities will stimulate positive wills, support the creative energies of exponents, directing them towards successful manifestations. Specifically, the ternary elements-state/government authorities/society will be supported, taking into account exactly the hybrid effort, channeled towards their successive destabilization.

Keywords: resilient state; resilient society; hybrid warfare; strategy; directions of effort; goals; vision; stability factor

1. General Statements

The current world is looking for ways of balance in a geopolitical context, after the disappearance of bipolarity on the Mapamond, a moment represented by the breakup of the Soviet Union (December 26, 1991). The current security

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environment is marked by increased dynamism, heightened unpredictability, fluidity and heightened divergence of interests. Globally, a fierce competition has been instituted for the reconfiguration of the poles of power, according to the potential, interests and ambitions of the major actors.¹ It is certain that the hegemonic role held by the USA in the political-military plan will be perpetuated. Recently, the American position is seriously threatened by China, the economic plan being the indisputable Chinese priority (Sirbu, Mihalcea & Bogdan, 2022, p. 100).

The Country National Defense Strategy produces an innovative and far-reaching analytical effort, for the horizon of the years 2020 - 2024. The involvement of the *trinomial state - society - individual* is taken into account, appreciated as a guiding vector of the effort of the national interest and public perception, towards achieving the goals estimated by the political factor. The functional Romania of the 21st century requires stability in social existence, the consolidation of an adequate standard of living of citizens, under the conditions of protecting values, national identity, resources and the demands of the rule of law. The domestic framework must be stable, credible and harmonious, transmitting robust signals to the international environment. The effort of the Romanian state in the field of resilience must synergistically combine foreign policy concerns, regional security priorities, internal security policy measures, the permanent, predictable and transparent approach must be planned and carried out as an integrator (Bogdan, 2015, pp. 17-19; 49-50).

2. Directions of Effort and National Resilient Purposes

The directions of effort are of particular importance in the turbulent 21st century to be known. In fact, multiple crises are overlapping, simultaneously a hybrid war may be taking place in the target space. Protective measures are difficult to intuit, organize and deploy, in the conditions of a fluid, turbulent and asynchronous international environment. Knowledge and national protection concerns from the resilience plan will be directed towards the functional continuity of the state, national security institutions and society. This is because hybrid actions aim at hitting and successive annihilation of the *target society* (1), *the flagship institutions of national security* (2), affecting the final “reduced”, the *target state* (3), the hybrid aggressor entity, the desired collapse and final disappearance of the state (Sirbu, Mihalcea & Bogdan, 2022, pp. 101-102).

2.1. The State Resilience

Romania's possibilities as a resilient state must be found in the enhancement of national security, achieved by summing up all weight components (political, diplomatic, technological, economic-financial, environmental, social, etc.), combined with the administrative capacity of domestic institutions. State institutions will generate and implement appropriate public policies that must support the realization of the social-economic interests of the state, in accordance with the priorities of future development. It is necessary to achieve financial-budgetary stability, the generation of a competitive, performing, self-sustainable and dynamic economic environment. Measures specific to sustainable development are necessary, ways of rational consumption of renewable natural resources, the use of cutting-edge technologies. The focus on developing research and technological capabilities, developing critical infrastructures, the national transport network for personnel and goods needs to be reshaped. It is requested to allocate the necessary funds to education and culture, as priority elements for the training of the future generation, in order to be able to manage the nation's problems¹.

2.2. Resilience of Institutions

The institutions represent the skeleton of the security and administrative structures, on which the existence and functioning of the state is founded (Sirbu, Mihalcea & Bogdan, 2022, pp. 100-103). Institutions receive a second blow of decisive damage, the first blow being directed towards damage and destabilization of society. The institutions that maintain the functioning of the target state are those intended for the major national effort: defense, intelligence, internal affairs, economy and finance.

In order to increase the resilience of institutions, it is necessary:

- increase the efficiency of good governance, the competitive strategic security intelligence effort, increasing collaboration with NATO and the European Union;
- strengthening of structures, based on the principle of meritocracy and clear competences;

¹ (2020). Presidential administration. The National Strategy for the Defense of the Country for the period 2020-2024. Bucharest, p. 12.

- modular and networked effort in day-to-day and operational activities (preventive and reactive);
- studying intertwined crises, applying efficient management, reducing the impact of multiple aggressions, through unified strategic management (from the same command point) for all types of crises;
- activation of interdisciplinary analytical mechanisms, developed according to the *operational design* model, the use of shared resources and parallel mobility routes;
- unitary algorithms, with digital processing, interconnection of complex systems and subsidiary command centers, circulation of critical data instantly, directly between data operators (Mihalcea, 2020, pp. 121-167).

Even in computerized institutions, the role of man as a strategic decision-maker, branch/department or local, will remain unchanged. Technologies are quickly acquired and quickly introduced into internal processes. But the training of a specialist is long (the specialization lasts about 5-8 years). Institutions will collapse when the human factor of leadership and execution is overcome.

2.3. Societal Resilience

The resilient dimension is a defining, critical element of society (Banu, Vintilă & Miroiu, 2016, pp. 9-10). It forces the development of capacities of individuals and communities, to overcome extreme experiences, to not destroy the affected people, but to help them recover. Resilience has indisputable valences of intergenerational transmission, suffering, accepted with possibilities and intentions of future recovery, can lead to surprising positive finalities. In fact, the meaning of the state with negative connotations must be reshaped, the perception of the traumatic state diminished, the aspect of disorder excluded, relaunching the positive approach by generating a robust affective memory within the social group subjected to the action of the stressor factor. It forces individuals and communities to develop capacities, to overcome extreme experiences, not to destroy the affected people, but to help them recover. Resilience has indisputable valences of intergenerational transmission, suffering, accepted with possibilities and intentions of future recovery, can lead to surprising positive finalities. In fact, the meaning of the state with negative connotations must be reshaped, the perception of the traumatic state diminished, the aspect of disorder excluded, relaunching the positive approach by

generating a robust affective memory within the social group subjected to the action of the stressor (Martin, Spire & Vincent, 2016, pp. 19-21).

For the resilience of communities, effective toolkits must be developed through:

- the real awareness of the typology and manifestations of influence and action, orchestrated in the virtual space and society, of hostile propaganda, disinformation, denigration, the way fake news circulates;
- the initial and continuous training of the young generation regarding the defining aspects of the hybrid action, the support of target groups in the formation of realistic critical thinking, familiarization with the way of conceiving, managing, leading and countering hybrid and asymmetric aggressions;
- knowledge of the ways to conduct the hybrid confrontation, with possible developments in the South-Eastern European space and at the Baltic-Pontic isthmus;
- inclusion of education programs on digital skills and ensuring online security in the curriculum of pupils, students and master's students.

On a societal level, hybrid aggressions can be countered through knowledge, discipline, coherence and culture, being fueled with measures and actions that strengthen social cohesion (Presidential administration, 2020, p. 11).

Increasing the living standard of citizens and communities requires the promotion of an intelligent growth of the productive sector, the functional maintenance of public macrosystems. The osmotic connection of the desired resilient state with the requirements of the resilient society must be achieved (Sirbu, Mihalcea & Bogdan, 2022, pp. 103-107).

3. Romania's Vision – Resilient State, Regional Pole of Stability

Romania's strategic posture confirms its status as a NATO and European Union member state, with an active role in ensuring Euro-Atlantic, international and regional security. The dynamic profile (political, diplomatic, economic, social and military) of strengthening regional security is also imposed by the developments registered in Romania's neighborhood in recent years.

Located on the Baltic-Pontic isthmus, an area where the interests of the Russian Federation intersect with NATO and the EU, Romania must establish itself as a

pillar of stability and provider of regional security. To the sensitive isthmus, the instability of the Balkans space is added, as well as the area of maximum interest, acquired by the Black Sea basin. Being located on the eastern border of the North Atlantic Alliance and the European Union, the main vectors of affirming Romania's stability and security are provided by the national defensive capacity, corroborated with the membership of the two organizations, NATO and the European Union. Romania's transatlantic relationship must be accepted as the pivot of solidarity and cohesion in both security alliances registered in Romania's neighborhood in recent years.

Romania must assert itself as a strong, capable and respected international actor, benefiting from a high level of economic and social development. Public policies must place the citizen in the position of final beneficiary. The vision of a resilient state will expand the capabilities of reporting and constructive national situation, efficient and proactive, with the developments that have taken place in the international security framework. Competent and motivated politicians, dedicated and responsible, and honest citizens, must know and respect the laws, act in a democratic context (Sirbu, Mihalcea & Bogdan, 2022, pp. 105-107).

Romania's position as a resilient state obliges efforts to strengthen the administrative capacity of own institutions, through:

- the design, establishment and implementation of public policies of great openness, which support the achievement of fundamental social-economic interests;
- ensuring a sustainable development, through the rational consumption of natural resources, at the level that gives the possibility of natural recovery of the consumed;
- the financial and budgetary stability of the state, the establishment of a competitive, efficient and dynamic economic environment, open to the investment and entrepreneurial sector;
- high standard of living and prosperity of the citizen, ensuring an intelligent growth of the productive sector, the functionality of public macrosystems;
- the development of technological and research capacities, the allocation of funds and the existence of high interest in education, education and culture (Presidential administration, 2020, p. 12).

In the case of Romania, as everywhere in the world, the dimension of a resilient state is demonstrated, not just asserted.

4. Conclusions

Although the geopolitical context places Romania in an unpredictable, turbulent and dynamic environment, the decision-makers will have to provide an adequate and efficient response to the challenges arising from the international environment. The viability of the reaction to external stimuli must be conferred by the connection to the Euro-Atlantic and European dimensions of security, the viability of the approach, the adaptability imposed by the cascading challenges, the flexibility of the attitude, resilience, firmness and intuition. The Black Sea region, where multiple destabilizing actions are spreading in the 21st century, must offer Romania the opportunity to generate, assert and promote resilient elements regarding security interests and objectives, values and principles that govern relations between international actors (Bădălan & Bogdan, 2016, pp. 23-46).

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