



## Challenges to the Security Address. Resilience – A Way of Response

Filofteia Repez<sup>1</sup>, Polixenia Olar<sup>2</sup>

**Abstract:** The challenges to security, some unpredictable, others predictable, determine the elaboration and development of understanding, prevention and reaction mechanisms both on the part of states, when national security is affected, and on the part of international and regional organizations, when international security and regional is affected. Whether they belong to valued public or private voices, knowing and understanding the evolution and consequences of these issues are beneficial to academia. Along with these mechanisms, resilience has increasingly become a way of responding to security challenges. In this sense, the present article presents the main problems of the 21st century from two approaches - a private approach and a public approach, continuing with the presentation of some aspects of resilience as a way to deal with moments of insecurity.

**Keywords:** security resilience; challenges; resolution

*“The pessimist complains that the wind is not favorable;  
optimism expects to change direction;  
the realist begins to adjust the sails.”* (Borysenko, 2009, p. 33)

**William Arthur Ward**

<sup>1</sup> Professor, PhD, Danubius University of Galati, Romania, Address: 3 Galati Blvd., 800654 Galati, Romania, Corresponding author: filofteiarepez@univ-danubius.ro.

<sup>2</sup> Associate Professor, National University of Defense “Carol I”, Bucharest, Romania, Address: Sos. Panduri no. 68-72, sector 5, 050662, Bucharest, Romania, E-mail: lisiolar@yahoo.com.

## **1. The Problems of the 21st Century and Ways to Solve them - Daniel Estulin's Approach**

The well-known essayist and independent journalist “*doctor in conceptual intelligence and colonel of the Russian military counterintelligence, with 24 years of service*” (Estulin, 2021), Daniel Estulin states, in the book ***Global Projects 2045***, that humanity is facing a crisis of great magnitude, which has existed before twice, namely in the 4th-6th centuries when federalism appeared and at the beginning of the 17th century with the birth of capitalism. The long-term effects of the current crisis mentioned by the author are: the disintegration of states, the end of the current planetary economic model, the regionalization of economies, the birth of supranational global projects and the translation of Atlanticism (NATO, the USA, the North Atlantic) to the Eastern and Pacific areas (the Silk Road, China, Eurasia) with Latin America as a secondary node.

For the 21st century, the author identifies three problems-explosions.

*The first explosion is related to population:* the current crisis should remove the current demographic pressure on the planet's resources, causing the disappearance of up to 90% of the population; if the indicator of global cleansing, sorting and slaughtering of humanity will be small, then the results of the use of weapons of mass destruction can leave a genetic imprint on the population, even leading to the degeneration of man as a species (psychophysical degeneration).

*The second explosion is universal criminality:* social crises, especially systemic ones, are accompanied by the violation of social rules, i.e. with the increase of criminality at the global level; the old society, in which the control mechanisms no longer work, is dying and will be replaced by a new society, in an asocial, criminal form.

*The third explosion represents the suppression of the social element and the increase of the role of the biological component in human behavior:* the highlighting of subhuman forms of sociality, of zoo-sociality characteristic of periods of crisis (periods of reptilians and homosours) in accordance with social laws (Estulin, 2021, pp. 346-351).

To solve these problems and to overcome the current crisis, Daniel Estulin proposes the following methods: rethinking relations with nature based on a fundamentally new philosophy; revision of the entire geoculture of Illuminism and Christianity with medieval theology, combined with ancient philosophy starting

from its founders; applying lessons learned from all or almost all mistakes made in the course of historical development over the last 25 centuries; the creation of new knowledge, fundamentally new disciplines and new epistemological programs with new research methodologies and topics; the development of an adequate theory of post-capitalism as a special case of the theory of social systems, built, from a methodological point of view, on the denial of the triad economy - sociology - political science and rethinking the relationship between subject and system based on this theory.

## **2. The Main Global Risks and Solutions – the Approach of the World Economic Forum**

An international non-profit organization focused on promoting cooperation between the public and private sectors to address global issues, World Economic Forum develops the Global Risks Report in partnership with Marsh McLennan and Zurich Insurance Group. This publication has a 17-year history and is based on the opinions of over 1,200 global risk experts, decision-makers and business leaders. In this way, states are aware of deeply interconnected global risks.

*The Global Risks Report* (Global Risks Report 2023), published in January 2023, differentiates itself from previous reports “*by taking a new and at the same time strangely familiar view of the global risk landscape over three time periods, as the world faces many pre-existing risks, which it considered long expired*”<sup>1</sup>.

This public document explores the worst risks facing humanity in both the short-term (2 years) and the long-term (10 years), noting that “*as we stand on the brink of an era of low growth and low cooperation, tougher trade-offs risk eroding climate action, human development and future resilience*”<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> *Global Risks Report 2023: Crizele de aprovizionare cu energie și alimente vor continua probabil și în următorii doi ani*, available online at <https://www.capital.ro/global-risks-report-2023-crizele-de-aprovizionare-cu-energie-si-alimente-vor-continua-probabil-si-in-urmatorii-doi-ani.html>, accessed on 09.05.2023.

<sup>2</sup> According to [https://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF\\_Global\\_Risks\\_Report\\_2023.pdf](https://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Global_Risks_Report_2023.pdf), accessed on 09.05.2023.

In this report<sup>1</sup>, ten main short-term (2 years) and long-term (10 years) risks from several fields are presented and detailed: societal, technological, geopolitical, environmental, as follows:

	2 years	10 years
1	Cost-of-living crisis	Failure to mitigate climate change
2	Natural disasters and extreme weather events	Failure of climate-change adaptation
3	Geoeconomic confrontation	Natural disasters and extreme weather events
4	Failure to mitigate climate change	Biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse
5	Erosion of social cohesion and societal polarization	Large-scale involuntary migration
6	Large-scale environmental damage incidents	Natural resource crises
7	Failure of climate change adaptation	Erosion of social cohesion and societal polarization
8	Widespread cybercrime and cyber insecurity	Widespread cybercrime and cyber insecurity
9	Natural resource crises	Geoeconomic confrontation
10	Large-scale involuntary migration)	Large-scale environmental damage incidents

*Note: domain: societal, technological, geopolitical, environmental*

The ways proposed by the authors of this report to mitigate the risks presented, which can be deduced directly and indirectly from the content, are: rethinking the relationship with nature; investments in resilience focused on solutions that simultaneously address several risks (such as the financing of adaptation measures to bring common benefits in terms of mitigating climate change but also in the field of environmental protection); focus on strengthening societal resilience and social resilience; creating a global risk map following the understanding of the potential consequences of global risks; scientific collaboration and cooperation in all areas for risk reduction and their effective management.

<sup>1</sup> *The Global Risks Report 2023 18th Edition*, p. 6, available online at [https://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF\\_Gloal\\_Risks\\_Report\\_2023.pdf](https://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Gloal_Risks_Report_2023.pdf), accessed on 24.04.2023.

### **3. Common Points Identified in the Two Approaches**

The two approaches stand out through common points, which emphasize the need to strengthen cooperation between state and non-state actors.

The identified common points refer to the problems/trends mentioned – if the first approach mentions only three problems-explosions for this century (valid for the current year as well), from the second approach, which even if they are categorized in the short term (2 years) and long (10 years), of the ten main risks identified, some can be found in the first approach, and we refer to the risks that are particularly related to the societal field (low cost of living, erosion of social cohesion and social polarization, large-scale migration). Risks from other fields (environmental, geopolitical, technological) determine and influence risks from the societal field.

Another common point identified is related to the ways of solving the problems/risks identified, respectively: rethinking the relationship with nature in order to mitigate the impact of climate change on ecosystems and biodiversity, but also for the harmonious coexistence of people and nature; rethinking education, which along with science and technology, underpins human development, in order to strengthen resilience, by finding ways to co-exist indigenous knowledge with science and technology and apply the lessons learned.

Another common point identified from the two approaches is related to the security environment, which is characterized by dynamism and change, and in which various challenges are manifested, in which man is the author and the object.

### **4. Resilience – a Way of Responding to the Challenges of the 21st Century**

Primarily used in engineering, psychology, ecology, disaster response, emergency management, resilience has also become a term used in theoretical developments and practical concerns in the field of security studies.

Depending on the scientific field and the evolution over time of the vision and knowledge of this term, numerous definitions have been formulated. The essence of these definitions is the following: the ability of people, societies or states to survive major shocks and crises, to maintain their vital functions, to limit their impact on their own functioning, and to improve as a result of that experience.

Regardless of the field in which the term resilience is used, the assigned meaning assumes constantly found aspects, such as: the existence of a system vulnerability; the existence of an external factor (risk, threat) that can significantly affect the state of normality of the system; high degree of knowledge of vulnerabilities and possible external factors that can affect the state of normality of the system; the ability of the system to survive and retain its essential functions; the ability of the system to adapt to the situation and recover afterwards; the adaptability of a social system through which it faces change without losing its essential functions.

In the field of security studies, resilience has developed in relation to fragile states, being seen as the opposite state of fragility, as the stage towards which they should evolve (Bogzeanu, 2017, p. 45).

Related to this field, the most well-known definition of resilience is the following: it represents the ability of these systems: to face/resist challenges from the external environment, to adapt to dynamic changes in the security environment and to transform into the meaning of becoming stronger in the face of new security challenges (Frunzeti & Bărbulescu, 2018, pp. 66-67).

Gradually, this term was included in the strategic visions of state and non-state actors.

The October 2022<sup>1</sup>, US National Security Strategy emphasizes the need to invest in innovation, our industrial strength and building domestic resilience; on domestic resilience depends the future of the country's success in the world.

The National Strategy for the Defense of the Country for the period 2020-2024 included this term, mentioning, among others: *“the concept of Romania's resilience is approached in a double key: the inherent capacity of entities - individuals, communities, regions, state - to resist and to articulately adapt to violent events, causing stress, shock, disasters, pandemics or conflicts, on the one hand, and the ability of these entities to quickly return to a functional, normal state, on the other”*; *“increasing the level of resilience in relation to asymmetric and hybrid risks and threats, likely to affect Romania's national security”* constitutes a national security objective, from an internal perspective.

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<sup>1</sup> Available online at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Biden-Harris-Administrations-National-Security-Strategy-10.2022.pdf>, p. 11 (...we must invest in our innovation and industrial strength, and build our resilience, at home) și p. 14 (*The future of America's success in the world depends upon our strength and resilience at home...*), accessed on 12.05.2023.

The European Union's Global Foreign and Security Policy Strategy: “*The European Union will promote the resilience of its democracies; resilience - the ability of states and societies to reform themselves, thus resisting and recovering from internal and external crises*”<sup>1</sup>.

The principle of resilience is enshrined in Article 3 of the North Atlantic Treaty, which underpins the security of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization: “*In order to achieve more effectively the objectives of this Treaty, the Parties, separately or together, by means of continuous self-help and mutual support, will maintain and develop their individual and collective resistance capacity in the face of an armed attack*”<sup>2</sup>.

NATO's Strategic Concept 2022 emphasizes the reiteration of the principle that resilience is a national responsibility and collective commitment and the concern for building comprehensive resilience to threats to allied societies and the modernization of the Alliance's three main tasks (collective defence, crisis management and cooperative security); takes into account the concept of layered resilience (NATO Layered Resilience Concept).

To address security and resilience challenges that are becoming increasingly complex and dynamic, NATO and the European Union established the Task Force on Resilience and Critical Infrastructure Protection, whose first meeting took place in January 2023.

At the national level, in 2020, the Euro-Atlantic Center for Resilience (E-ARC)<sup>3</sup> came into existence, based in Bucharest, under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, defined as an international hub and a research body, which has a view on promoting and pursuing the resilience objectives of NATO and the European Union.

Developing and strengthening resilience involves several aspects, such as: awareness of security developments, inter-institutional cooperation, development

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<sup>1</sup> *Shared Vision, Common Action: A Stronger Europe. A Global Strategy for the European Union's Foreign and Security Policy*, iunie 2016, p.8 (*The EU will foster the resilience of its democracies.*) și p.23 (...*resilience – the ability of states and societies to reform, thus withstanding and recovering from internal and external crises*), available online at [https://eeas.europa.eu/archives/docs/top\\_stories/pdf/eugs\\_review\\_web.pdf](https://eeas.europa.eu/archives/docs/top_stories/pdf/eugs_review_web.pdf), accessed on 12.05.2023.

<sup>2</sup> *North Atlantic Treaty*, Washington DC, 4 aprilie, available online at <https://www.mae.ro/sites/default/files/file/pdf/TRATATUL%2520NORD-ATLANTIC.pdf>, accessed on 18.05.2023.

<sup>3</sup> Official site <https://e-arc.ro/>, accessed on 18.05.2023.

of a proactive mindset towards change, commitment to strengthening resilience, strategic approach to resilience.

Resilience involves the partnership of three levels – state/institutions, society with civil society organizations, companies, trade unions and the individual.

For individuals and communities, resilience manifests itself in many forms: emotional resilience, psychological resilience, educational resilience, physical resilience, societal resilience etc.

As a result of the diversification and impregnability of risks in the security environment, the topic of societal resilience is increasingly addressed in the academic environment.

Societal resilience is related to society, involving elements related to its substance and structure, to the bond that holds people together, especially to the protection of identity and social cohesion. To these are added, according to the president of the Center for Conflict Prevention and Early Warning in Bucharest, professor Iulian Chifu, other elements (Chifu, 2022, p. 5), such as: leadership, trust in authority, the quality of democracy and the rule of law, patriotism, the desire to defense of the state, way of life and property, equal access to opportunities, access to credible information, independent media and countering foreign manipulation and interference at the informational level.

Barry Buzan, Ole Waever and Jaap De Wilde have presented a distinction between *“social security that refers to individuals and belongs especially to the economic field and societal security that refers to collectivities and their identities”*; the societal, they claim, has a wider scope than the social, including elements related to identity, migration, internal cohesion, etc. Starting from this differentiation, while social resilience represents *“the ability of individuals and communities to cope with external shocks and how to contribute to community preparedness, disaster response and post-disaster recovery”*, societal resilience *“has a different approach, which involves elements related to the substance, to the structure of a society, to the binder that holds people together”* (Dumitrașcu, 2020, p. 292).

Naturally, systems (individual, community, city, region, state, etc.) have different levels of resilience, and its development and strengthening become imperatively necessary; in the case of the individual, for example, modalities include increasing quality of life, compassion or concern for others.



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The evolution of security, the various challenges to it, the ability of states to present answers to them, as well as the reconfiguration of international relations in this century are the subject of much scientific research.

The security and international relations of the 21st century are related to the context in which state and non-state actors act, whose actions can affect the security of another state, regional security and global peace.

Among the ways of responding to the challenges of this century is resilience, which involves accepting uncertainty and active anticipation, that is, preparing to face a future threat (crisis) and recovering from its materialization. The term resilience is used in many fields to describe the ability of a system - individual, human community, city, region, state - to respond and adapt to changes, to reorganize and persist (continue the activity). Resilience manifests itself in all sectors of human activity and the existence of human society in general and represents a paradigm shift from the approach centered on sustainable development to a more comprehensive and dynamic approach that integrates the multiple challenges facing the world.

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