

Introduction

Current developments, also related to COVID-19, are the fuel for what the security will face in the coming years – something that many define as neomedievalism – the arrival of the new Middle Ages, i.e. the age in which the fragmentation and cultural isolation of individual social groups is becoming more and more visible and dangerous. The 20th century is over and something new, unknown is emerging. There are many meanings of “neomedievalism” or “the New Middle Ages” circulating in the humanities. They refer to many different phenomena, and sometimes contradict each other¹.

We provide readers with a monograph, which already has the term (international security), defining itself, in its title. It also means that the North Atlantic Alliance and the member states are constantly facing the challenge of updating the existing concepts, strategies and approaches. And now – a new time has come! The time of great challenges for humanity – tasks at the individual and organization level. The current alert situation (pandemic) decides about our lives. It makes you build new habits. For example, e-learning from parallel and supplementary forms will for a long time become the only form of teacher-student contact. An asymmetric war is underway with the virus – an enemy with strategies and tactics that are difficult to work out. Scientists have already mentioned such an asymmetrical enemy. Now he hit with great force. NATO and the Russian Federation are also facing it.

On the other hand, in recent years, Russia has invested significantly in its military capabilities, and especially in its nuclear arsenal. While NATO views its own nuclear deterrent primarily as a political tool, Russia has firmly integrated its nuclear arsenal into its military strategy. It has

¹ More on transition from neoliberalism to neomedievalism and why this matters for the security; <https://neomedievalism.wordpress.com/about>, accessed: 17.06.2020.

placed nuclear-capable missiles in Kaliningrad, just 500 km from Berlin. It has threatened Allies such as Denmark, Poland and Romania with nuclear strikes. Russia also forcibly and illegally annexed part of Ukraine, a country whose borders it had previously committed to respect in return for Ukraine giving up its own nuclear protection².

Military sciences have long dealt with the asymmetrical war, adopting the area of terrorism for scientific considerations, pointing to its extremely difficult aspects of undertaking defence. The war on the virus FORCED the world to participate in a total war. The topic of the monograph dealing with others about jointly undertaking goals, many years of working out ways of international cooperation today more than ever in the past brings hope for the expected success – the victory of the living (material) world.

Although for many years the importance to other areas of security is attached, especially economic, social and political, but... according to scientists, the world has entered a new era in which even the most extreme scenarios of its development are possible. Many cannot be imagined yet, because there are no words to describe them. For example, according to Richard Hammond, the main factors determining the development possibilities of the world will be technology, demography and climate. In other words, they will be the areas of depriving the opponent of his goods and resources, striving for hegemony or influence, the intention to bring justice or demand it.

The main research problem was formulated as follows: How does the foreign policy conducted by the Russian Federation affect international security? The main problem was defragmented and the following specific problems were identified:

- 1) How does the Russian Federation influence the shaping of international relations?
- 2) What impact does the Russian Federation's hybrid war have on international security?
- 3) What is the impact of the Russian Federation's economic activities on international security?

The main goal of the research, the results of which are presented in this monograph, was to identify the activities carried out by the Russian Federation on the international arena and their consequences for security.

² J. Stoltenberg, *Germany's support for nuclear sharing is vital to protect peace and freedom*; https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/opinions_175663.htm?selectedLocale=en, accessed: 01.06.2020.

The monograph was prepared by a team of researchers representing various academic centres. Thanks to this, achieving the goal and solving the identified respective research problems was possible, based on various research perspectives, applied approaches, methods, techniques and tools. It was formulated respectively in the introductions to individual chapters of the monograph. The conclusions drawn on the basis of the research carried out by the Authors are of scientific importance but also should be seen within the popularizing perspective.

This monograph consists of three parts. Total 14 chapters, as research papers, are included, and the Authors come from different countries. The first part is about exerting influence on international relations. The second part, related to the exerting influence through hybrid warfare. The third part is focused on exerting influence through economic impact. Finally, of importance is to stress, that the monograph not only builds knowledge about current international security but also looks towards the future.

This book refers to an important problem area, which undoubtedly are issues regarding the place and role of the Russian Federation as one of the main actors of the security scene of the modern world – in times of turbulence and unforeseen scenarios. This applies to the full extent of the realities of NATO's functioning, with thirty members since March 27, 2020. An alliance that has been measuring since March 2020 against an asymmetrical opponent, namely COVID-19. In this context, taking up the subject of the influence of the Russian Federation on security is fully understood, having to do with broadly understood security.

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