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SLOVAK REPUBLIC AND SECURITY

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Slovak Republic belongs to the category of small states; its modern history is short as well. Created by the dissolution of Czech and Slovak Federal Republic in 1993, Slovakia has been independent for 20 years. The self – determination was clear and unambiguous act from the point of view of the international law, Slovakia became a part of the European space, peacefully interacting with its neighbours.

However, there were two essential points of view about the development of the new state. One of them required to gain the status of neutrality. The main reason was trauma caused by former membership in the Warsaw Pact. Czechoslovakia as a member of the Warsaw Pact formulated its security and defence within this organisation. Certain obligations and limits for Czechoslovakia resulted from the situation, which was obvious mainly in the crisis periods of the post – World War Two development of the Soviet bloc. The second point of view was based on general euphoria after the dissolution of the USSR. From the beginning the states of the former Soviet bloc showed vehement effort to attain their main goal – integration to the NATO and the EU This way appeared to be optimal possibility for Slovakia to gain prestige and influence in the international community, which is much needed for every new state. That is why the issues of state's security and the obligations resulting from the status of associated member state, through various accession

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programs, became interconnected. Accession to the NATO is anticipated by more accession processes, e.g. programmes called PfP, MAP and the programme of the NATO Euro – Atlantic Council. Slovak Republic did not become member of the NATO in the so-called first round of enlargement. During the NATO summit in Washington in 1999 three Central European states became members of the NATO: Poland, Hungary and Czech Republic. Slovak Republic did not meet important criteria concerning internal political situation in spite of the fact that the requirements from the military point of view were met.

It is time to evaluate, nowadays in 2013. Two decades of the development of security in Slovakia point out to the fact that associated and full membership in the NATO does not guarantee an absolute stability in state. It is more appropriate to consider the development as a process with many variables which is not finished. The author of the reviewed publication **Jaroslav Ušiak** analyses the development of the Slovak security policy from this analytical point of view.

Mgr. Jaroslav Ušiak, PhD. works as research assistant at the department of security studies of the Faculty of Political Science and International Relations of the Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica. He has been interested in the field of security for many years because he lectures on this issue. He lectures on Security Policy of the Slovak republic, Security Policy of the Visegrad Four Countries and Security Studies. He is also author or co-author of many scientific studies, and two monographs *Security of the State at the beginning of the 21st Century*; and *Security as a Category*; he is responsible for organising of the prestigious scientific conference Security Forum and participates in projects concerning the study of security.

The reviewed publication *Security Policy of the Slovak Republic - Development, Cornerstones and Implications*, which is published by Czech publishing company, is an outcome of the project „V4 – European Studies, No. 60900016". The publication should be recommended for Slovak and foreign students studying international relations and political sciences as an important part of their preparation. The author offers more positive motivations for students because the publication is divided into eight shorter chapters which provide historical, ideological, and political and terminological basis needed for understanding of the continuity of security development in Slovakia.

The introductory part is focused on the military history of Slovakia. Through parts dealing with the first records in historical documents a reader can imagine how small area of Slovakia became part of larger state entities and how its

strategic culture was developed during decisive periods in history. Only after the end of the World War One by becoming part of a new state called Czechoslovakia the Slovak security environment became part of emancipation efforts of more European states in the post – World War One period. After the end of the World War Two Czechoslovakia was one of the founding members of the United Nations, also thanks to the great effort of Slovak diplomacy.

The large part is also dedicated to analysis of the strategic culture of the state between 1945 and 1990 when the security was based on the "leadership of the proletariat." The working class and its vanguard were considered to be the subject of security policy - Marxist-Leninist ideology. The government of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic as the highest body of the state power was considered the subject of the state security policy. Police corps was also considered an important subject (Zákon č. 40/1974 Zb. o Sbory národní bezpečnosti) that was first of all in charge of the protection of internal security - it should have clarified crimes, but also the causes and conditions of committed crimes, and it was also its task to eliminate anti-social phenomena and implement appropriate measures. In the sphere of the protection of the state's territory and sovereignty, that is, in the sphere of external threat, the Czechoslovak People's Army was fulfilling its mission. The Army also had to fulfil its obligations (collective security) resulting from the Warsaw Pact. (p. 16) The indication of reasons leading to the end of bipolar system and consequences for Czechoslovakia, partition of the state into Slovak and Czech Republic, is an important part of the publication as well.

The second part of the publication is focused on Slovak Republic as a new actor in the international scene. It contains description of the accession process to the NATO and the initiation of important documents, doctrines and policies concerning new security orientation, e.g. the Defence Doctrine of the Slovak Republic issued in 1994, Basic Objectives and Principles of the National Security of the Slovak Republic issued in 1996.

Substantial part of the analysis deals with the security policy of Slovak Republic in 1998 – 2004, association and membership in the NATO. The second security strategy of the Slovak Republic was adopted after 2004 when Slovakia was a member of the NATO (the first strategy was adopted in 2001 and the second one was adopted in 2005). Both documents are parsed within the categories and terms of the security environment of the state. The author points out to the problems for the state which resulted from the change of external international environment. As a consequence, changes within the state

occurred of course, some indicators got worse, e.g. demographic factor, societal risks, problems concerning energy resources, economic instability, identity problems etc. (p. 39) At the same time, the author mentions possibilities of the Slovak Republic to eliminate global, regional and local threats and risks.

The security policy of the state, and security interests of Slovak Republic which are compatible with it, are parsed in the fourth part of the text. The security policy of Slovak Republic is defined as a part of broader security environment: "The Slovak Republic participates in forming a new security environment by the following means - prevention and strengthening of the global, European and regional security (activities in the UN, membership in NATO and the EU); improving international cooperation (cooperation with WTO, CEFTA, CEI, Austria, Visegrad Group, Ukraine, CIS and Russia); supporting enforcement of international law (arm controls, control of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, fighting against terrorism and organised crime); securing the stability and development of a legally consistent state (through continual internal and external policy of the Slovak Republic); social and economic growth (market economy, transparent economic environment, the Slovak Republic will use its membership in OECD, IMF, WB, WTO); the protection of the environment." (p. 49)

The fifth part of the publication contains a continual analysis of the security system of the Slovak Republic from the legislative, procedural and organisational / institutional point of view. This part encompasses clear explanation of organs, institutions which are relevant from the point of view of security policy and security system. The analyses of the security strategies of Slovak Republic of 2001 and 2005 are in the sixth part. A positive feature of the part is the fact that the author includes critical attitudes which were formed gradually towards these documents. The author tries to explain why the documents are more formal than pragmatic and he proposes some improvements in the case if new documents of this kind are adopted in the future. The seventh part of the publication concerns position, tasks, goals and future of the Slovak Armed Forces which have fulfilled many positive tasks since the establishment of an independent Slovakia. It also deals with changes which occurred after Slovakia had become member of the NATO and the EU. The last part of the text is focused on the current issue of crisis management and its mission in the conditions of the Slovak Republic.

The change of strategic culture, which occurred in the European states from the Cold War till the era of NATO and EU enlargement, empowered this tool as

one of the basic instruments of the defence and security. It is related to the responsibility of every state not only for its own security, but also for the international security. First, the author focuses on the description of the purpose, the goal and the products of the crisis management. Then he focuses on the specific conditions of the crisis management in the conditions of war, in the conditions of peace and also on the fact which competences and tasks should be given to the particular branches of the crisis management in Slovak security system.

In conclusion, we positively evaluate the text of this small publication and we would like to introduce a few reasons. There are no in–depth analyses of the development of security and security aspects since the declaration of independence. Partial evaluations were introduced in scientific journals, for instance Panoráma, or in the scientific articles lectured at conferences. From this point of view, the reviewed publication has a positive social contribution. It is thoroughly written from the point of view of methodology, terminology and taxonomy. Thanks to the publication the study of security in Slovak Republic can become qualitatively higher.