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University
of Sibiu**

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and Security Studies**



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AFGHANISTAN POST-2014. THE UNITED STATES' NEW SILK ROAD AND ENERGY BENCHMARKS

Title:	AFGHANISTAN POST-2014. THE UNITED STATES' NEW SILK ROAD AND THE ENERGETIC BENCHMARKS
Abstract:	<i>The topic on Afghanistan, as well as the opportunities and the challenges for the development and security of the environment, inspires a more economic- and geopolitical- oriented approach. By extolling both primary and secondary resources, within a cross-disciplinary setting, the aim of the paper conspicuously gravitates around the withdrawal of the NATO troops from Afghanistan in 2014 and the subsequent effort to find sustainable alternatives for the country, pursuits broadly referred to what was called the “decade of transformation” for Afghanistan (2014-2024). The efforts emphasized by the US and allies refer mainly to Afghanistan’s ability to buttress state-building measures and to provide stability to and through the neighbour countries, under the corollary of the New Silk Road proposed project and its subsidiary energy démarche, such as TAPI. However, whether positive outcome can become factual or whether hindrances weigh more regarding these proposals, it still lies below a blurry horizon for Afghanistan, as it is dependent on many endogenous and exogenous variables, inseparable from regional geopolitics.</i>
Keywords:	Afghanistan; the New Silk Road Initiative; TAPI; Silk Road projects; security; criticism
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CONSIDERAȚII TEORETICE PRIVIND RECONFIGURAREA SUBSISTEMELOR REGIONALE DIN ORIENTUL MIJLOCIU

Title:	THEORETICAL CONSIDERATIONS ON RECONFIGURATION OF REGIONAL SUBSYSTEMS FROM THE MIDDLE EAST
Abstract:	<p><i>The analysis of constitutive coordinates of some subregions from the muslim geopolitical space, divided into subsystems, will be achieved in a differentiated manner, appealing to the term "regional subsystem". This notion will be approached as a microsystemic entity with projection on its complex and interdependent character of relations among states. The content of this research will not reflect the historical and evolutionary aspects of geopolitical subsystems in Middle East; it will be focused on regional subsystems marked by socio-political and economic transformations with impact on regional security.</i></p> <p><i>The article will analyze the assumptions of distinguished researchers who contributed to substantiate the hypotheses on peculiarities of subsystems, based on the idea that the international subsystems are the groups of units within the international system, distinguished from the rest through their particular nature and intensity of interactions or interdependence, as well as subordinate systems. It also aims to identify the differences on various criteria within the international system and regional subsystems. This approach represents a scientific platform to launch new concepts in order to provide a solid theoretical support to research the peculiarities of regional subsystems.</i></p> <p><i>Defining in general the term "regional subsystem" represents an entity of a complex and interdependent microsystem of relations among states. In the context of the realities from the Middle East states, the subsystems from highlighted spaces will be analyzed on political and conceptual axis, supporting the idea that the Middle East system is not based on geographical and historical criteria, but it is an applied political concept, reflecting the strategic interests of great powers.</i></p> <p><i>The current theoretical framework is not well founded in that it does not explain the analytical blurring of the concepts parameters with reference to "regional subsystem". This notion is divided on geographical, economic and geopolitical criteria, which not always coincides or often overlap. This change too rapid over time. This theoretical basis represents an extended framework for finalizing of the defining of the terms "subregion", "subsystem" and "regional subsystem" in a generally valid manner.</i></p>
Keywords:	International system; regional system; subregional system; subregion; subregional center of power; actors; islamic/muslim geopolitical space
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EUROPA, CHINA ȘI GUVERNANȚA GLOBALĂ. MIRAJUL DRUMULUI MĂTĂȘII

Title:	EUROPE, CHINA AND THE GLOBAL GOVERNANCE. THE MIRAGE OF THE SILK ROAD
Abstract:	<p><i>The world today is a mess. There is no doubt about it. But probably this is also how the contemporaries of other historical times saw their present. We could rather say that the international order is difficult to predict at the beginning of a century which is already dominated by very confusing moves and combinations. Using the author's own means of research and observation (field research, the perception of reality from the perspective of the study of history, and a compared dimension), this article wishes to shed some light on a part of the role played by the European Union in the international policy under the circumstances of the fast transformations suffered by the global economic and security environment. The strategic relation with China is worth discussing at several levels (depending on the various categories of interests); our considerations about the course of the strategic partnership between the two powers and about the current evolutions of the international scene try to provide only some necessary benchmarks for an overall understanding of this diplomatic closeness.</i></p> <p><i>The United States and Russia are global phenomena with complex, eventful trajectories and a direct impact on modern universal history. Having emerged on the international arena approximately at the same time, the evolution of the European Union and China (the name Zhōngguó means the Middle Kingdom) is not reflected in the adoption or appropriation of the features of the old dualist model generated by the two ideologically opposing groups, the West and the East. They both try specific governing and extension formulas: the first chooses the road of the European integration and thus stands out in the classical landscape of intergovernmental cooperation and transnational dialogue between the states and the second counts on the advantages of its physical architecture which generates prosperity, to make its presence felt on the global scene. Last but not least, the article wishes to bring forward, within a certain contextual framework, those essential elements of civilisation which provide an easier understanding of the surrounding political and economic realities, advancing new reflection leads.</i></p>
Keywords:	International System; Diplomacy; Foreign Policy; China; European Union; Strategic Partnership; European Affairs; United States; Russia; Asia-Pacific
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INTERESE EUROPENE LA DUNĂRE. SCHIȚĂ ISTORICĂ ȘI CONTEMPORANĂ*

Title:	EUROPEAN INTERESTS ON DANUBE. HISTORICAL AND CONTEMPORARY DRAWING
Abstract:	<p><i>The Danube, the second-longest European river, which crosses 14 European states, is of major strategic and economic importance by linking the eastern and central European communities as well as linking these communities to the Middle East by connecting the North Sea and the Black Sea.</i></p> <p><i>Despite their differences, the Danube river basin states are European states with similar values and traditions. Thus, united in its diversity, the European Union and Romania should follow their common interests in this area, by setting objectives such as: increasing waterway traffic, dismantling organized contraband, increasing transport capacity, ensuring waterway traffic laws are obeyed, reducing the technology gap between the lower Danube and the Main-Rhine complex, utilizing tourism, customs, fishing and environmental potential in the area and also developing the military capabilities of the region by means of better integration with the waterway transport infrastructure.</i></p>
Keywords:	Danube; Romania; international cooperation; European Union; international regime
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POLITICA DE VECINĂTATE A FEDERAȚIEI RUSE. CÂTEVA REPERE

Title:	THE NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION. SOME REFERENCES
Abstract:	<p><i>The XXI st century finished by the disapearence of an Empire, whose importance will be established only during the history. Incredibly, the</i></p>

	<p><i>state which were formed during a century, stopped its existence. The Soviet Collapse of the biggest territorial Empire produced geopolitical confusion on the international arena., contributing at the foundation of "a black hole" in the centre of Euroasia.</i></p> <p><i>Although some authors sustain that the empire shattered, the others pay attention that isn't good to underrate Russia which has an important geografical position and because of that there are enough strategical trumps. Therefore, in the actual context, it is necessary to know the principles of geopolicy of the present Russia.</i></p> <p><i>The present article examines the neighbourhood policy of the Russian Federation. Thus it analizes the interests of Russia in Belarus, Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and also the Caucasian space (Armenia, Azerbaidjan, Georgia0 and also the USA, NATO and UE.</i></p>
Keywords:	Russian Federation; national interest; geostrategical interests; influence sphere; strategy; geopolitical interest; power; geopolitical actor; the post- sovetic states; the Caucasian space
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ISLAM AND JIHAD

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GEOPOLITICAL ASPECTS OF RADICAL ISLAM'S SAFETY ENDANGERMENT IN FORMER YUGOSLAVIA*

Title:	GEOPOLITICAL ASPECTS OF RADICAL ISLAM'S SAFETY ENDANGERMENT IN FORMER YUGOSLAVIA
Abstract:	<i>In this Paper we will try to define geopolitical aspects which can clearly provide significant space for operating for those who follow radical Islam to achieve their goals. Therefore, we will focus our attention on the main security risks and hazards which are considered as a real threat for the fragile peace in the region that can transform it again into the inter-ethnic conflict zone which, in this area, always has a direct religious-confessional basis and consequences. Also, we will emphasize the dangers which are threatening national and state interests of Serbia and the Republic of Srpska.</i>
Keywords:	Islam; Radicalism; Geopolitics; Balkan; White Jihad; Serbia
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JIHADISM AND MASS MEDIA

Title:	JIHADISM AND MASS MEDIA
Abstract:	<i>The use of mass media as a propaganda tool is an integral part of the strategy employed by terrorist groups that have discovered that shock and</i>

	<p><i>publicity conveyed by images can be more effective than the attack it self. This situation is a consequence of the competition for audience that animates all the companies active in the field of media, as well as the interest that the public has for the sensational. Because of this circle, terrorist attacks became first page news.</i></p> <p><i>In order to maintain their position on the front cover, terrorist groups came with attacks that are more and more daring and spectacular and conducted against carefully selected targets. At the same time, one can see that new methods of action have been developed, their aim being to shock and attract attention, as well as becoming a kind of trade mark. Such an example is the beheadings practiced by the Islamic State. But, in order for them not to become “boring”, from time to time new ways of doing things are developed (e.g. mass decapitations) along with introducing new methods of conducting the executions.</i></p> <p><i>Beyond the publicity for the cause they pretend to serve, the mediatization of these actions through mass media and the Internet also aims at attracting new followers and supporters. These new adherents either join the terrorist groups in war zones, or engage in lone wolves type attacks in their own countries. This type of attacks, that are more difficult to counter, have recently multiplied.</i></p>
Keywords:	Terrorism; crimes; propaganda; jihadists; mass-media
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STRATEGIC STUDIES

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THE TRANSFORMATION OF MEDIA OPERATION INTO MEDIA WAR*

Title:	THE TRANSFORMATION OF MEDIA OPERATION INTO MEDIA WAR *
Abstract:	<i>The transition from media operation to media war represents the transition from the fairness and morality of the press to use it for transmission of distorted information with negative effects on the civil population. The ways media could turn into a weapon which can hit are multiple, as both require intelligence, the power of the journalist` creativity and expression, the editorial force of media companies, also media networks force in general. Media operation can become media war in two situations. On one hand, when there is a confrontation between the media of each of the camps in conflict, in order to impose their opinion in front of the national and international public as well as their own version on the causes, conduct and consequences of conflict. On the other hand, the media can be the interface for the war.</i>
Keywords:	Media operation; media war; influence; media networks; conflict
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APLICAREA CERINȚELOR NOII REVOLUȚII ÎN AFACERILE MILITARE ÎN PROCESUL DE TRANSFORMARE A FORȚELOR TERESTRE

Title:	THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE REVOLUTION OF MILITARY AFFAIRS IN THE LAND FORCES TRANSFORMATION PROCESS
Abstract:	<p><i>The profound changes that took place in recent years in the global political and military landscape have caused significant, substance changes of the military strategies and doctrines. It has become clear to most military analysts that the beginning of the third millennium debuts with new formulas and different ways of conceiving and carrying out military operations.</i></p> <p><i>The new operational concepts, specific to the informational age present war as a competition of knowledge in which the outcome will be favorable to the groups of forces that will prove a better understanding of the battle space and will be able to transfer quickly this knowledge to their militant elements. Moreover, success is seen as the result of the integrated action of different types of forces (military and non-military) of weapon systems, decider and executive structures.</i></p> <p><i>Moreover, all these represent areas of study and analysis for the military specialists, who almost unanimously consider that today we are living a time of full revolution in military affairs.</i></p>
Keywords:	Revolution of Military Affairs, technological transformations, doctrines, organizations, changes, operations.
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ROMANIAN NATIONAL SECURITY

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THE EVOLUTION OF THE CONFLICT BETWEEN NICOLAE CEAUȘESCU AND THE "SECURITATE", BETWEEN 1973 AND 1989

Title:	THE EVOLUTION OF THE CONFLICT BETWEEN NICOLAE CEAUȘESCU AND THE "SECURITATE", BETWEEN 1973 AND 1989
Abstract:	<p><i>The Thesis according to which "the Security was faithful to Ceaușescu until December 22nd 1989 at 12:09", is completely wrong and was supported in bad faith. After banning links between Army and Security officers and the Soviets, in 1972, the Security kept unreported ties with the K.G.B. and S.T.A.S.I., especially through G.D.D.I., structure that had a greater action and movement freedom.</i></p> <p><i>Within the Security, the perception on Nicolae Ceausescu was not consistent. Nicolae Ceausescu was not viewed as an enemy by the entire Security. This perception was manifested especially between the national leaders of the institution who were kept in their offices by Iulian Vlad and his devotees, officers with experience in service, who lived through the period when the Security was like a „state within a state”, when, under K.G.B. supervision, it led an intelligence war against the West, with the support of the grand ally. On these, the pressure exerted by Nicolae Ceaușescu was very high. Increasingly heavy tasks put before the Security by Nicolae Ceausescu were enforced with a permanent „sword of Damocles” over the heads of commanders, who did not feel for a moment comfort or peace. Under these circumstances, the privileges, wages, bonuses, the preferential supply, the concern for carers, could no longer rejoice the chiefs, who no longer felt the need of any gratitude from the Supreme Commander.</i></p>
Keywords:	Securitate; security; Nicolae Ceaușescu; conflict; betrayal; espionage
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**ROMANIA – A CONTRIBUTOR WELL AS A
BENEFICIARY OF THE CSCE REFORM PROCESS.
THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR
THE NATIONAL SECURITY OF ROMANIA AFTER
1989**

Title:	ROMANIA A CONTRIBUTOR WELL AS A BENEFICIARY OF THE CSCE REFORM PROCESS. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR THE NATIONAL SECURITY OF ROMANIA AFTER 1989
Abstract:	<i>The collapse of the communist regimes in 1989 and the end of the bipolar balance led to a security vacuum in the international security environment. As a consequence, the main actors started an institutional reconfiguration and a redefinition of their goals and objectives in order to meet the new threats and to ensure the national and international security in all its dimensions. Thus, after 1989, we find Romania engaged in the reforming process of the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe, a security structure whose efficiency is often contested, but whose presence is still constant. In this context, this paper aims to identify the reasons which led Romania to focus its attention and to use its limited resources (as a consequence of the communist regime's collapse) to actively participate in the reform process of CSCE, emphasizing, at the same time, the relevance of this structure for the national security of our country.</i>
Keywords:	CSCE; OSCE; reform; national interest; foreign affairs; Romania; national security; international security
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DIN ISTORIA CONTRIBUȚIILOR MINORITĂȚILOR NAȚIONALE LA PROIECTUL POLITIC ȘI ECONOMIC AL ROMÂNIEI MARI. CAZUL SAȘILOR TRANSILVĂNENI

Title:	ASPECTS REGARDING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF NATIONAL MINORITIES TO THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PROJECT OF GREAT ROMANIA. CASE OF TRANSYLVANIAN SAXONS
Abstract:	<i>Today, as ever, Transylvania is thought OF, loved and coveted as AN autonomous subject. Either placed in the historical or the cultural context of Romania, Hungary or Europe, it primarily interested as an individuality, which highlights the specifics - just this uniqueness and complexity makes this area so tried to succeed to keep alive and active interest in itself, regardless of background, frame, space, space and temporal history. Regardless of the historical period, and the crucial moments they crossed, the Saxons were a pillar of the evolutionary contribution to Romanian society. The presence and the considerable genetic spirit in unflinching places and times, the chameleonic ability to cope with the many challenges that have been subjected, this minority was able to bring significant contributions to the social, economic and cultural places they were his wing. In terms of cultural security, economic, societal, their influence has meanings that transcend temporal space, which fail - because of their durability - regardless of time to retain a touch loose or lasting authenticity and date.</i>
Keywords:	Economy, Transylvanian Saxons, Transylvania, Economic and cultural security, Saxon-Romanian relations
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ECONOMIC SECURITY

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INFORMATION DETERMINANTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS

Title:	INFORMATION DETERMINANTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS
Abstract:	<p><i>The article deals with current issues of environmental security, pointing at the importance of the information component in the development of economic, political and social processes. Global evolutionism defines a new vector of humanity's aspirations for economic progress, in which the understanding of the concept of "environmental security" should include the spatial, temporal, material and energetic interaction of society and nature. The article identifies the importance the "sustainable development" concept in terms of the properties of systems controllability with different information flows that perform the function of integration between levels of environmental security, is identified. It is proved that informatization processes may not only contribute to positive shifts in economic development, but also cause social risks for society caused by its low level of information security, the inability of the nation to be realized as the information society and to accept new goals of the economy greening.</i></p> <p><i>Formation of strategic priorities including information and environmental components within the system of national, international and global security framework is important for the development of economic progress. New understanding of the configuration of the system of ecological safety is associated with its definition multidimensionality in the communication space and should contribute to its high level of security in the future.</i></p>
Keywords:	Environmental security; information; development; global evolutionism; economic progress; the digital divide multidimensional communication space.
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**TENDINȚE DE RECONCEPTUALIZARE A
SISTEMULUI DE SECURITATE FINANCIARĂ
INTERNAȚIONALĂ, ÎNTRE CONCRETETE ȘI
PALEATIVE**

Title:	RECONCEPTUALIZATION TENDENCIES OF INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM, BETWEEN CONCRETENESS AND PALLIATIVE
Abstract:	<p><i>Shaken and stirred up by the chaos in the global financial system, came to the masses, business circles and political environment, through the very mechanisms of globalization, international economy topicality quickly swept the world, making globalization work itself, after the initial outbreak in the United States in 2007.</i></p> <p><i>The drastic reduction of prestige and credibility drastic reduction in economic and financial United States and Western Europe and the decrease of their suppliers of private capital for the world is the result of registration huge budget deficits and the deterioration of financial institutions.</i></p> <p><i>The article refers to the loss of infallibility of the American capitalist economic model wich was considered for a long time most able to create economic progress and prosperity under the perverse effects of the financial crash of 2007-2008.</i></p> <p><i>The government of the United States and Western European countries are desperately trying to give help to averted bankruptcy banks and insurance funds through the nationalization of an important part of the domestic financial system.</i></p>
Keywords:	Financial crisis; polarized world; aranjament swap; economic depression; euro-crisis
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**SAFETY OF ONLINE CUSTOMERS AND ETHICS OF
ONLINE STORES**

Title:	SAFETY OF ONLINE CUSTOMERS AND ETHICS OF ONLINE STORES
Abstract:	<i>Today in Ukraine the issue of safety is very important for online stores, as well as for customers. The problem of online consumers safety is one of the main issues for trade companies, which have a serious online business. The types of attacks were studied the types of attacks and they are presented in the order they are most likely to occur in the world. The author's research proves that the overwhelming part of Ukrainian online customers is not sure that their personal data will stay saved. Trade companies are suggested to inform online customers about the privacy policy of company, high level of safety and introduction of marketing social ethics principles, which must be displayed on the home page of online store and in online marketing strategy of the company.</i>
Keywords:	Safety; online consumers; customers privacy; online stores; ethics; ethical codes
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BOOK REVIEWS

**CRISTIAN TRONCOTĂ, MIHAI MARCEL NEAG, VASILE
TABĂRĂ, *Instituțiile comunității de intelligence*, Editura
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(RECENZIE)

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informații și securitatele regimului comunist din România (1965-
1989)*, ediția a II-a, Editura Elion, București, 2014**

(RECENZIE)

Eugen STRĂUȚIU

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COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF DEVELOPMENT ON THE TWO BANKS OF DNIESTR. DIALOGUE CHIȘINĂU - TIRASPOL (26 to 29 March 2015)

The workshop aimed at facilitating the dialogue between experts on themes of interest for the future of the region: political and economic development, the role of mass-media and civil society.

Participated representatives of civil society, journalists, academics from Chișinău and Tiraspol. A report will be drafted, which will include the main findings of the experts, as well as recommendations for building confidence and contributing to the peaceful resolution of the Transnistrian conflict.

The project is implemented by the Transnistrian Conflict Analysis Laboratory of the University Lucian Blaga Sibiu. The Association Ecomuzeu Regional Sibiu is also a partner in the project, together with Promolex from Chișinău.

The workshop is organized within the project "Development as a solution to the Transnistrian conflict" (Grant No. ROM / 2014/16) and is funded by the Romanian Development Cooperation and implemented in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme - Regional Office for Europe and Asia Central.

