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GEOPOLITICAL TURBULENCE - THE US CRISIS AS THE SECOND POSSIBLE EDITION OF THE SECESSION WAR

*We are currently witnessing an enormous
civilization and cultural changes
that may soon remodel our world*

gen. R.T. Andrzejczak

Abstract:

This article is devoted to the analysis of the current crisis in the USA caused mainly by worldview discrepancies as new ideology and the assessment of the possible consequences of this crisis in the future not only for the American state but for the entire globe. The article presents a historical outline of the foundations of the greatest conflict in the history of the USA, the aim of which was the secession of the US Confederates. The identified global trends were also analyzed in terms of possible fulfillment of the darkest and most dangerous scenario of internal turbulence in the USA with the possibility of dividing the country. The aim of the article is a broad discussion on contemporary threats in the field of security, cultural and mental changes, and worldview confrontation. Additionally, the possible effects of the weakening of the US and possible secession and the related possible geopolitical scenarios are presented.

Key words:

United States, non-state actor, crisis, hybrid warfare, civil war

INTRODUCTION – THE GENESIS OF THE CRISIS

The current situation in the United States of America, caused by unrest on an unknown scale, draws the attention of many political scientists to the future of the world power. It can be concluded that the riots in the US on the basis of "race" are in line in the everyday life of modern America, and their outbreaks are nothing new, or even a well-worn pattern from the *To never-ending story* series. Killing in Minneapolis, at the hands of the white policeman, black George Floyd, it sparked a wave of several months of brutal demonstrations and riots in many US cities and Europe. It should be noted that the Minneapolis incident occurred during a huge economic recession that spread across the globe and was a consequence of the SARS-CoV-2 epidemic. The United States is one of the countries most affected by the economic recession.

Moreover, the tense situation arose during the presidential elections and the division of society, unprecedented since the Civil War, not only in terms of skin colour, but also economically, ideologically and politically. Politicians on both sides are also fuelling the public mood. The current riots are not only racial, but above all ideological in a polarized society it is extremely dangerous. It seems that this year's elections could be a key importance not only for the future of the USA but also for the change of the political power in the world. The aim of the article is a broad discussion on the possible weakening of the USA and possible secession and also the related possible scenarios in geopolitics.

Racial riots are one of the most important unsolved problems in modern America, and this is why the problem keeps coming back and it does so with multiplied force. According to many experts, one of the causes of the contemporary conflict is the effects of the Civil War between the South and the North in the years 1861-1865, considered the bloodiest in the history of America. According to the most simplified versions of the reasons for the outbreak of the war, it is stated that "*Abraham Lincoln, the Republican presidential candidate of the United States, sought to abolish slavery, and*

the southern states in which it was in force disobeyed to preserve it. The resulting war was thus fought by the forces of the North with the aim of liquidating this barbaric institution” (Nieroda 2018).

It should be noted that the states, especially the North and South of the Union in the nineteenth century, were very diverse in terms of economic, mental and political. These differences kept growing. According to many experts, the cause of the outbreak of the war was economic aspects, and more specifically fiscal discrimination. On the basis of the passed act, high export duties on agricultural products and high import duties on industrial products were introduced in the South. As a result, the South had to participate in almost half of the EU's customs revenues, despite the fact that it had a production potential much lower than the North (Nieroda 2018). This situation led to dissatisfaction and the desire of the rebellious states to leave the Union. Here comes the legislative issue in defence of the right to secession. The articles of the Confederation stated that each of the states making up the Union was fully sovereign and independent. In the Constitution that replaced the Articles of the Confederation, this formulation no longer appears. This does not mean, however, that with the ratification of the Constitution, individual states lost their independence and sovereignty in favour of the federal government.

The differences between individual states, especially North and South, remain enormous despite the industrialization of the South. The largest of these is the traditionalism of the southern states in relation to the northern states. The visible division concerns, above all, the mentality and worldview, including the attitude towards religion and family ties. *“Though Americans believe in God as a long and wide country, in the South, faith is the most expansive, encroaching on politics, state institutions, and schools. Some experts say that religion best defines the division into North and South today”* (Jarkowiec 2015). Analysing the recent events related to the riots in the US and Europe, it can be seen that the leading organizations are extreme left-wing groups, such as Antifa, fighting only under the guise of racial equality, and in fact carrying anarchist slogans. Regarding the left-wing

movements, it should be noted that Antifa does not have any central structures, nor even a single coherent ideological declaration written somewhere. There is no such thing as a formal membership in Antifa. Therefore, the activities and views of the various Antifa groups may differ significantly from each other, and their members can be easily manipulated.

A GAME FOR WEAKNESS

Currently, there has been a very clear division of the US society, and it does not only concern the election of President D. Trump, but also mental and philosophical differences. Additionally, old animosities about the North-South war and racial problems are heated and can be used to weaken the domestic US including its division. It should be noted that individual states did not renounce their sovereignty in favour of the Union in the constitution and did not grant it the right to stop secession by force. Under the Tenth Amendment, the central government has no power to act to prevent separation. Such behaviour would be a federal usurpation of the sovereignty vested in the states. All states joined the Union on equal terms, which means that if even one state (Texas) reserved the possibility of secession, it must be available to all (Nieroda 2018). So there is a possibility of destroying the currently greatest power through its internal problems in the social domain. Such a scenario is part of standard hybrid activities, the main goal of which is achieved by destabilizing the social domain, especially through social polarization. To this end, activities in the economic and political domains can be used to increase social discontent. Who may be interested in changing the superpower polarity of the modern world? Each power or empire is surrounded by enemies or contenders for the former power. In the case of the US, we are dealing with competition with emerging powers such as China, India, Turkey and the recovering Russian Federation. In the twenty-first century, another strong player enters the game - the non-state actor. In a connection with the above, the possible disintegration or weakening of the USA would be of great

importance in the new balance of power or would trigger the outbreak of a global culture and new ideological revolution.

IDENTIFIED TRENDS IN GEOPOLITICS WHICH INFLUENCE ON POSSIBLE SECESSION

Do the riots caused have a deeper foundation, especially analytical? The identified global trends in the geopolitical, social and economic areas affect the disadvantage of the USA in the context of a possible secession. The following trends were classified by authors as the most dangerous for future US (SFA 2017).

Challenges for state management

“Cultural changes in the modern world are lowering the role of government institutions. The current structures and management do not meet the needs and expectations of society” (SFA 2017). In developed regions and countries, management systems and institutions are influenced by many independent actors, both public and private, each pursuing its own goals and priorities, with its own clientele and constituency, its own technical language and organizational culture, its own mandate and specialized focus . The lack of decisive action to prevent high unemployment, illegal immigration, globalization and the loss of national identity contributed to an increase in dissatisfaction with existing institutions.

The dominant factor which hinders the management of the state is the loss of trust in the existing state structures and the political class. Changes in the world in the social area (mental and cultural changes) reduce the role of government institutions. The present structures and management methods do not support the needs of the society and increase the distrust of hierarchical institutions. The effects of this trend are noticed on the streets of the USA, where young people chant anarchist slogans and, with the consent of the liberal authorities, build enclaves of districts that are out of control. A clear example is the announced Autonomous Zone of Capitol Hill (CHAZ) *“in Seattle, an extraterritorial Antifa and Black Lives Matter (BLM) zone was established, where the authorities have no control”* (Nczas 2020). This situation resembles the script of

the movie entitled *Escape from New York*. As in the movie, experts say that “*while CHAZ has no formal authority or rules, there is already an informal code of conduct*” (Młynarz 2020) defined by rival criminal groups, often made up of ideological radicals.

The United States of America is still struggling with legal problems concerning the sovereignty of individual states. Consequently, the central authorities they are powerless to fight riots because the law does not allow them to intervene in states or counties, unless federal facilities are at risk.

Globalization

“Globalization, characteristic and dominant tendencies in the world economy, politics, demography, social life and culture at the end of the 20th and the beginning of the 21st century, consisting in the spread of analogous phenomena, regardless of the geographical context and the degree of economic advancement of a given region” (Encyklopedia PWN).

It should be noted that globalization leads to the unification of the image of the world as a homogeneous whole of interrelated economic elements and a common culture of the consumer type. The process of globalization remains the main common factor influencing geopolitical trends. Globalization contributed to the diffusion of power between states. The growing importance of trans-national non-state actors will be noticeable in globalization. The processes and effects of globalization have led to a much more global level of economic ties than in the past.

One of the effects of globalization is that economic power, including financial power, is now more dispersed than in recent decades. The globalization trend may facilitate the direction of a more multipolar international system. The current fluctuations in dominance and power in the international system will increase geopolitical competition, including between regional entities. The economic and economic rivalry between China and the US and possible currency conversion of international settlements (getting rid of the US dollar) may contribute to the intensification of the US economic recession. Growing consumerism adversely affects the mental changes of society and the consumption mode with the possibility of losing the national identity.

Currently, in the large urban agglomerations of the USA, especially in the northern states, there is a noticeable trend to build a "new history". It manifests itself in cutting off from the past, especially the colonial past, and building a new state entity. A telling example is the large-scale devastation of monuments of national heroes. *“Antifa and BLM gangs are knocking down monuments across the United States. In some Democratic-ruled cities, the authorities do the same. This also happened in Chicago, where Mayor Lori Lightfoot ordered the removal of two statues of Christopher Columbus (Nczas 2020a).* Building and consolidating the United States of America as one nation and creating a sense of identity for a young state required many propaganda and educational efforts. Today, the effort of many generations is openly contested.

Public dissatisfaction / polarization of society

Loss of trust in the ruling elite, political stalemate and problems with introducing reforms lead to an increase in the polarization of society.

Social polarization, a process of profound stratification of society in such a way that two opposing social poles are formed (Encyklopedia PWN). The lack of trust in governments and institutions is due to disappointment from the current policy. Most often, social polarization occurs when social problems causing differentiation of attitudes relate to important spheres of social life, such as: politics, religion, etc. people expressing moderate attitudes is decreasing. The process of polarization very often contributes to the outbreak of social conflicts and the disintegration of social groups.

Nowadays disappointment and distrust of politicians and the so-called establishment, led to an increase in far-right nationalist sentiment, and on the other hand, left-wing and internationalist mood. The increase in the polarization of societies is noticed almost all over the globe and may result in conflicts on a local or regional scale including civil wars against the background of nationality and ethnic and cultural background defined them as a civilization wars. The course of these conflicts will be the so-called rebel wars, which will break out in several places at the same time, making it difficult to suppress them. *“After the end of the Cold War, when the conflicts were caused by ideological disputes, religious and*

cultural disputes will return to the first place. Western civilization is systematically losing its influence in the modern world” (Huntington 1996). This trend has dominated not only the USA, but the entire world today. It will increase the importance/influence of non-state actors, the emergence of parallel societies, the susceptibility of society to manipulation, and the risk of a conflict arising from different political, religious and cultural views. Due to unresolved racial issues in the USA, there is a continuous increase in the popularity of extreme left-wing and anarchist organizations, a decrease in the sense of national identity, secularization, and an increase in liberated ideologies. This may result in a large-scale civilization conflict breaking out as a civil war. It should be noted that this trend is very likely, and its growing.

The influence of a non-state actor on national and international affairs

Globalization and business flows have created a new powerful player in the international arena. Today, large trans-national corporations have incomes comparable to those of nation states. However, they are not burdened with budgetary, infrastructure or educational expenses. With such large incomes, they can influence the policies of individual countries or support dangerous ideologies. “*A non-state actor is independent of state actors, their sources of funding, policies, and government control*” (Josselin, Wallace 2001). Non-state actors influence the economy, politics and society at national and international level. Non-state actors include entities from non-governmental organizations (NGOs), multinational corporations (MNCs), networks of ombudsmen, trans-national activists, legitimate or dishonest entities, and terrorist and criminal organizations. As state power is reduced, non-state actors will have a greater influence and roll over national governments and international institutions.

Aggressive non-state actors such as terrorist organizations, criminal organizations, traffickers and pirates will increasingly challenge governments by displaying state characteristics and threatening security in terms of cross-border terrorism, extremism, organized crime and common crime on the brink of anarchy. Considering the scope and scale of the riots in the USA, the question arises whether these

activities are not coordinated and, above all, financed and by who. “According to President Trump and representatives of his administration, the riots are by no means spontaneous, but were planned, organized and carried out by leftist organizations, especially Antifa. Both Trump himself and the US attorney general, William Barr, have spoken about it publicly” (PCH24 2020). Figure 1 shows the impact of a non-state actor on the social area. Influence is made through the political and economic domains, as well as through media indoctrination and cosmopolitan education.

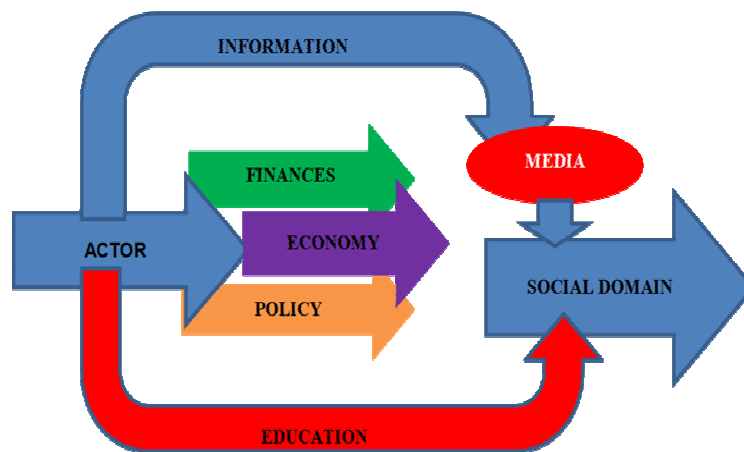


Figure 1: The impact of a non-state actor on the social area

Diminution the role of nation states

The direct effect of the actions of a non-state actor will be that the role of nation-states will be reduced to their complete disappearance. Currently, there is no obvious alternative to the system of nation-states that has characterized geopolitics for over 300 years (SFA 2017). The probable scenario of the end of nation-states is presented in Fig. 2. The figure is a continuation of Fig. 1. In the activities of a non-state actor, the first stage is the social area, and after taking over the existing state entity is overthrown.

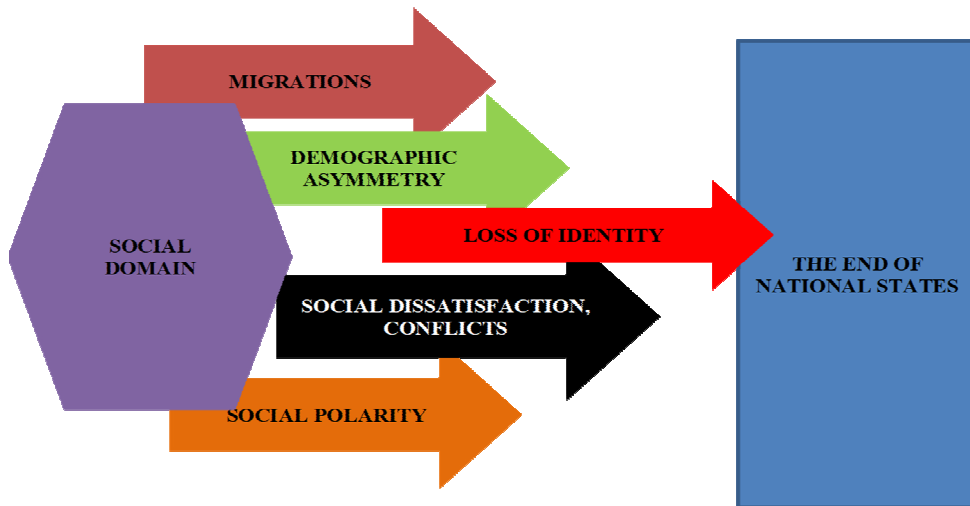


Figure 2: The impact of the non-state actor at the end of nation states

In support of the presented trend, apart from analytical research, one can quote the statements of many young people for whom the state only marks administrative borders. Internationalist movements do not recognize national boundaries, and their aim is to destroy the existing order in favour of an undefined entity more like lawlessness and anarchy.

Political rivalry and the trend of the US division

The current election campaign in the United States causes enormous emotions, not only in the states. In the shadow of the campaign, there is a clear ideological division and a completely different vision of international and domestic politics. “*Democrat candidate Joe Biden uses the adventures of the Black Lives Matter movement to present himself as America’s “providential man” who will unite society. The problem is that at the expense of normality and anti-civilization concessions to “anti-racists”*” (Nczas 2020b). At the same time, D. Trump leads a completely different narrative, blaming the democrats, especially those in power in large agglomerations, for being compliant and supporting anarchy. President D. Trump announced that Justice and Homeland Security Departments are working on a joint plan to fight leftist riots. In his speeches he directly talks about the ruthless settlement with what he called vandals. (Cheda 2020).

Currently in the US, though not only the news media, are becoming more and more polarized. There is a high probability that their activities will be aimed at increasing divisions in society and fuelling public mood, by playing on the emotions of voters. Additionally, the polarization will be deepened by the use of various social networks and other media distorting the real picture of the situation. Biased news programs will be used by adversaries creating an alternative reality that adversely affects social cohesion. Today, the American people are divided and polarized. The trend of increasing social polarization will make it more difficult for the government to implement laws and reforms to stop dangerous separatist movements in the name of freedom and equal civil rights. Currently in the USA we are seeing the process of unfreezing the trend towards the collapse of the unity of the United States' Union, buried in the bloody history. However, now, unlike the Civil War 150 years ago, the possible division of the state would be of colossal importance not only for the American continent but for the entire globe. Given the internal political turmoil, US voters in November will have a choice between a policy of submission or a real confrontation with the problem. Not only the future of the USA will be at stake, but also Western civilization. However, it should be remembered that the trend does not disappear, it can only be weakened or reduce, and in extreme cases reversed.

CONSEQUENCES OF THE INTERNAL TURBULENCE IN THE US

Geopolitical effects

The US internal problems would upset the geopolitical balance which was so badly damaged by years of domination. US are received synonymously with the so-called Western countries that are already seeing a shift in the center of gravity towards Asia. Currently, the influence of Western countries on politics on a global scale has been limited. In the event that the US loses its power, China will become the only great heir. The NATO alliance will cease to exist in favor of smaller alliances or coalitions.

Therefore, China wants to fuel the secessionist sentiment in the US. Paradoxically, due to the US secession, the Russian Federation will lose from the regional powers in the long term. The economic and economic conflict between China and the US gives the Russian Federation a chance to carry out reforms and conduct regional policy. Disrupting this process will force the Russian Federation to submit to China. Europe without US support will plunge in total chaos that both Turkey and the Russian Federation can take advantage of.

Consequences for the US

The possible disintegration of the Union will be for today's United States a failure not only political, but also ideological and civilization. The weakening of the US position in the international arena may lead to increased tensions and conflicts on a local or regional scale. Additionally, the new administrative division will force migration within the former EU. The weaknesses of individual states may be exploited by the eternal enemy on the continent, ie Mexico, by implementing the long-held demands of the territories lost to the US.

Consequences for Europe

A lonely Europe with a highly divided society will be most affected when the US loses its world leadership. Such a situation will immediately activate extreme left-wing and internationalist movements, leading to the already announced world revolution. In addition, it will strengthen right-wing and Islamic organizations. The result of NATO's decomposition will be the lack of effective force intervention to contain the spreading violent riots. The disintegration of the EU will also be likely. As a result of the riots, rebel wars will break out in archaic categories, reminiscent of the incidents in Rwanda in 1994. Milan Chovanec, the Minister of the Interior of the Czech Republic, defined it in a similar way, describing future incidents as the Super Holocaust. As a result of the weakening of the governing and power organs, Islamic organizations and Turkey can offer help in bringing order, and thus subjugate Europe and to implement the announced plans of President R. T. Erdogan to rebuild, or even extend the former Ottoman Empire.

CONCLUSIONS

Historical experience confirms that the ideological, economic or religious polarization between social groups is the main source of conflicts within and between countries. It should be added that the United States can be classified as countries "at a crossroads" where there is one dominant culture that determines the belonging of a country to a specific civilization, but the leaders of the country want it to be within another. According to Huntington, the most important countries in which an attempt was made to change the civilization circle include: Russia - from the times of Peter the Great, Turkey - after the reforms of Kemal Atatürk, Mexico - from the presidencies of Miguel de la Madrid and Carlos Salinas de Gortari, Australia - the concepts of Paul Keating and Gareth Evans. However, the change was unsuccessful in any of the above-mentioned countries (Huntington 1996). The threat of secession or even weakening the USA in the international arena would have catastrophic consequences, above all for Europe. This article strongly emphasized not only the problem of the possible secession in the USA, but also the tense security situation, especially in Europe, including the disturbing mental, cultural and ideological changes. It should be remembered that all global trends presented in this article tend to increase.

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