

Anti-globalization Actions – a Risk for Public Order and Safety

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Abstract: As a process, globalization has a long history. Some sustain that the current phase of globalization has nothing new, since its rise the capitalism was a transnational phenomenon. What is new, in the recent decades, is the amazing revolution of information and communication technology, which generated a qualitative and quantitative study of globalization process, especially on its economic dimension. On one hand, the process creates transnational networks, including people networks, and on the other hand it excludes and atomizes large human communities, triggering movements, hence the anti-globalization action.

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1. Globalization – Tendencies and Implications

The term globalization implies a complex process involving internationalization and localization, integration and fragmentation, homogenization and differentiation etc. On one hand, the process creates transnational networks, including people networks, and on the other hand it excludes and atomizes large human communities, triggering movements, hence the anti-globalization action.

So people's lives are profoundly shaped by events that occur far from the residence area, where they cannot intervene, at the same time there are created new opportunities for widening the role of local and regional policy, by their inclusion in the global processes.

As a process, globalization has a long history. Some sustain that the current phase of globalization has nothing new, since its rise the capitalism was a transnational phenomenon. What is new, in the recent decades, is the amazing revolution of information and communication technology, which generated a qualitative and quantitative study of globalization process, especially on its economic dimension.

Generally, the developments in this field refer to the modification of what is called a techno-economic paradigm, which is the predominant way to organize the production and services distribution in order to meet the prevailing demand system. Thus, standardization of production associated to the "scale economy" on territorial base, will undergo a transformation process within the meaning of its differentiation, according to local or specialized demand. As a result, the national levels of economic organization have lowered their importance, with the decreasing role of territorial-based production, and the global levels of economic organization have spread due to their transnational feature of finance and technology specialization and of the growth of specialization and diversification of sale markets.

In addition, the physical production is less significant as part of the overall economy, both because of the rise of services' importance and because the increasing production of individual products consists of know-how, design, marketing, legal and financial consulting, etc.

Also, globalization process has shattered what Ernest Gellner called "vertically organized cultures", in fact the classical culture, their place being taken from the cultures of new transnational networks, including the mass culture of the consumer associated with constellations of national, regional and local cultures, as a result of the assertion of local peculiarities. These developments determine and encourage, clearly, in an aggressive form, actions of denial the indigenous cultural values, kitsch proliferation, the culture of borrowing and cultural underproduction, imposing a national inferiority complex, politicization of the culture act, denigrating personalities and identity values.

Globalization entails also transnationalization and regionalization of structures and procedures that can promote a better governance. After the collapse of communist regimes, there was an explosive growth of transnational organizations, regimes and international regulatory agencies. More and more government activities are carried out in terms of international agreements, or are integrated into international institutions; an increasing number of departments and ministries engage in official and non-official forms of cooperation with similar structures from other countries, many political decisions are increasingly co-opted from down to up, towards international forums, often too high for them to return any liability, while the last two decades have seen a reaffirmation of local and regional policies, in particular, and not only, with development purposes.

In parallel with the changing nature of governance, there was observed a striking development of transnational, non-governmental, unofficial networks. This includes NGOs, both that fulfill previously assumed functions undertaken by government, such as humanitarian assistance and the ones that carry out campaigns on global issues such as human rights, ecology, peace, etc.

Globalization has profoundly affected the social structures in advanced industrial countries, the traditional working class has deteriorated or is in decline, with decreasing mass production on territorial bases. The differentiation of gains is associated with geographic disparities, both at continental and global level. There is a more pronounced inequality between regions, particularly between the industrial advanced ones, that can invest their technological capabilities, the disadvantaged ones, upon which the unfair conditions, the final profit. Some areas can prosper, at least temporarily, drawing production characterized by volume, such as Southeast Asia, Southern Europe, while others are caught in the global economy, while the traditional sources of making a living are eroding. So there is a distinction between global enclaves, protected by wealth and poverty affected areas, outside their anarchic and chaotic existence.

Against this complex background or maybe it may be one of the main reasons, there has been a considerable change of security environment, at global/regional and state level.

At the beginning of XXIst century, the fast process for integration, interdependence and communication, defined usually by the word "globalization", was seen as the most important challenge for security and intelligence services, and to the States in general, upon the public order and safety.

The new millennium has brought a reorganization, "the new world order", often awakening feelings of mistrust and uncertainty towards the future.

"We have before us a more mysterious world than before", admitted Robert Graves, former CIA director.

A brief analysis of globalization reveals a number of implications that induces this phenomenon, some with a deeply contradictory feature in all plans, including in the national security domain of the states:

- promoting competition and efficiency and it creates new jobs;
- isolating totalitarian regimes;

- developing links between countries, but also among civilizations, and on the other hand
- it weakens the position of national states as international actors;
- pressuring the international relations by poverty polarization and immigration phenomenon;
- multiplying atypical threats (terrorism, organized crime, illegal migration, money laundering, proliferation), which culminated in the dramatic events of September 11, 2001;
- causing the anti-globalization movement, which currently tends to unite into an international network with direct action on public order and security in the place where they operate.

Globalization - the focal point of divergent passions and violent protests - has become a phenomenon submitted to endless controversies. Some proclaim its virtues and inevitability, others talk about the flaws and vulnerability of the phenomenon. As a reason for numerous debates, globalization is seen as “a trilogy of dissatisfaction towards capitalism, internationalization and transnational bodies.”

Initiated mainly by extremist groups of left and right, without excluding the possibility of involving some international terrorist groups, the anti-globalization organizations campaign for imposing a simplistic and distorted view of world politics reality, the international institutions are accused of perpetuating social injustice, of slavery, using children as labor force etc.

The observers of such organizations, which tend to coalesce in a coordinated international network, maintain that the phenomenon of anti-globalization movements highlights three features: institutionalization, professionalisation and internationalization.

However, the activists of these organizations deal differently the anti-globalization phenomenon, thus being they differ from supporters of the planned economy, anarchists and reformists.

The first, dominated by the traditional left formations and some segments of organizations' unions, believe that the ongoing process of internationalization is a real mess trying to defend and to reassess the state's role in the economic process.

As "visible" as the anarchists are the harder it gets to define it, often being called "alternatives". They make the rejection of globalization a secondary purpose, focusing more on constructing, on a small scale, some socio-politico-economic alternatives entities.

The reformers are the majority of anti-internationalization groups, their purpose being to change partially the Western political system in order to eliminate the social injustice and inequality. While accepting the role of market economy as fundamental element of economic development, they believe that there should be introduced mechanisms for ensuring social justice.

2. Anti-globalization Movements and Actions that Risk Factors and Threats

Anti-globalization events that have accompanied major international meetings have shown that violent protests are professionally prepared and performed by a well-defined plan; behind the young people that vandalize towns and attack security forces is a perfect organization, carefully directed the protests degenerate into street confrontations, using widely sophisticated technological means; in addition, activists use also expensive techniques of psychological warfare: lobby groups specialized in spreading rumors, media coverage of nonexistent threats, intoxication of media and authorities to generate a state of uncertainty likely to precipitate a violent reaction from order forces.

The organization of such events requires going through some well-drawn stages, prepared in advance, thoroughly and professionally.

During the preparatory phase, the activists meet in special meetings to establish the contacts between different groups and set their role.

Also, in protest preparing activity there are developed action platforms, where there are established the working groups dealing with logistic support (finance, accommodation, purchase of materials), mass-media (propaganda and briefings), tactics and procedures to be followed (education and training of demonstrators, future actions) legal advice (the conduct towards the police, legal support for incidents during demonstrations or crossing borders), general program support (cultural activities, concerts), and putting into practice the proposed actions.

Some groups, such as those involved with the mass-media, begin their work a few weeks before the event itself, in order to spread nationally and internationally their views.

Manipulating the media is one of the basic segments of anti-globalists strategy. This is often led by activists' media centers by paying some journalists, which are directly related to the event. If possible, some mass media are supplied with selected information in the form of photographs or recordings. There are indications that anti-globalists used media to promote their positions in order to provoke the police reaction, its record and compromising the security official measures of order and public safety.

In the final part of the preparatory phase there are set meeting points and information centers. First, they provide the first arrivals with accommodation and information, and secondly, they serve as a coordination and information during the demonstrations. It turned out that these features play a central role especially when protests involve a large number of people, they are mobile and/or continue more days.

Noteworthy is the fact that the plans to conduct demonstrations are developed shortly before the event, as they foresee sabotage and other related actions in a well defined strategy, in order to determine the number of delegates to cancel participation in the event, thus targeting the reduction of importance or even its cancellation.

Furthermore, in parallel with official event and/or near the action place, the anti-globalists participate in so-called "Global Action Days", the conferences are "picket" with "purely coincidental" concerts. Guised under the peaceful demonstrations, small violent groups carry out street militant activities. Coordination point is set as close to the protests and equipped with e-mails and mobile phones, often serving as the basis for coordinating the movement of groups of demonstrators.

At this stage, anti-globalists usually use the Internet for public information, email lists for relatively confidential information and cryptograms for exchange of intelligence. Telephone communications (GSM) are avoided when the transmitted information might interest a third party (law enforcement bodies and intelligence services), in these situations, there are arranged personal meetings only in crowded places and/or moving. Anti-globalists use this strategy during operations as well.

When conducting anti-globalization movements usually there is the following organizational structure:

- permanent groups which are directly involved in the preparation of demonstrations and protests; they see globalization as a new form of aggressive and exploitative capitalism;
- close groups to anti-globalists

They meet at international conferences and they establish permanent structures. Also they have an international association independent from the organization created in different countries;

- ad hoc networks. Are active only once or periodically, depending on the situation and they are composed of other permanent groups. Such networks assume the responsibility for local coordination and logistics of protests (travel, hospitality, construction or improvement of training centers and protest, information dissemination);

- Friendship groups. Gathered spontaneously, they have a specific mandate for separate actions - informing the local mass-media (their own) and organizing demonstrations in their country;

”The abolition of institutions and international relations would, in the view of anti-globalization activists, be the panacea of all evil of today's global society.”

In this context, the objectives of anti-globalization activists are:

- inoculation of disagreement among the masses of international, political, economic and military structures;
- discrediting governments by challenging some violent clashes with security forces, suggesting the obstruction of democratic rights and freedoms;

The observers of such rallies warn that the anti-globalists have made an action plan which provides:

- Short term: specific events as meetings, conferences and agreements, supranational bodies and organizations must become the favorite target, to cause them great damage to their property or have them penetrate electronic security and activity systems through their hackers.
- Medium term: supranational organizations like the World Trade Organization (WTO), International World Wide Fund (IMF) and World Bank (WB) should be

dissolved completely or at least reformed, according to anti-globalist desire and concept. One way to achieve such reform is compromising the places and countries of such organizations.

- Long-term: long-term specific goals, targeted by different militants, differ according to political choices and their priorities. Most of them, however, consider that it should be developed an alternative to decision-making mechanisms at supranational level in order to limit the social, economical and ecological gap between the states.

There were observed several types of protest:

- Free Train Actions: people taking part in demonstrations that travel in organized formations without paying their tickets;

- "Claiming the street": the demonstrators block illegally the traffic near the objective by taking over the streets in the area;

- "White overalls": the demonstrators wear white overalls filled with white thick paint trying to break through police cordon;

- Illegal conspiracies and sabotage acts. These acts are limited, usually to sabotaging the infrastructure facilities. For example, the militants for protecting animals (being part of anti-globalists) in Great Britain have protested against international companies that do experiments on animals by destroying the buildings of some companies, threatening and harassing employees, shareholders and creditor banks.

- "Internet campaign". Internet system provides a new battleground for anti-globalists. The real financial damage caused by hackers and the negative effects upon organizations caused by obvious flaws in the security system can not be neglected. The anti-globalists try to discredit the organizers or organizations through the discovery and publication of safety deficiencies;

After September 11, amid the anti-terrorist war, anti-globalization activists have shifted towards pacifism as an excuse for anti-NATO and anti-American attitudes.

The diversification of organizations' actions and anti-globalization groups have drawn the attention to the institutions that maintain public order and to the intelligence services in democratic countries, which have included anti-globalization issues between the basic objectives of their work. In this context, we consider that the special services should focus on obtaining data and information

on anti-globalization militants' plans, so that there can be organized and implemented appropriate security measures in order to ensure smooth running of international meetings.

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