

## SUMMARY

The references related to the issue of political tolerance as a factor for safeguarding peace and security increase the defense policy vocabulary, but also make problematic the issue about the need of respecting differences in modern, democratically organized societies. Democracy cannot function successfully in the absence of a political consensus on issues of general social interest, such as peace and security of the country, without taking into consideration the tolerance, and especially the political tolerance.

The issue of political tolerance has been studied by many different scientific disciplines (political sciences, economics, sociology and law). Today, although there are different types of tolerance (cultural, religious, confessional tolerance and others), a special attention is paid to the political tolerance. When quantifying the political tolerance in the internal affairs of the states and in the contemporary international relations, it is necessary to begin with the changes that have occurred in the international political system. When explaining this phenomenon and its position in the contemporary reality, one should start from the presumption that the political tolerance is conceived differently in different times and different places. The need for tolerance, and especially for political tolerance, has been continuously emphasized since the issue of political tolerances is linked with the issue of social power of people, the issue of peaceful resolution of social conflicts, resolution of different disputes among people, and similar.

Some analysts depict in a linear manner the changes in the international system after the end of the cold war, claiming that there is a new understanding of peace and security. However, security, irrespective of the segment to which it is referred to – individual, national or international, is one of the urgent problems of the international community. In this respect, the national security has a central position resulting from the fact that most of the problems of security nature exist and dominate in the domestic stability of the state.

Based on extensive studies, the conclusion is that the political tolerance and in general the tolerance, is of major important for the security of peace in the country and in the wider region. In this respect, several researches were made in the Republic of Macedonia their goal being to locate the problems that block the way to international, ethnic and religious tolerance. Since politics is usually set and implemented in mass dimensions, a political event always has in itself something that is of public interest. The correlation among politics, peace and security, and in this contexts the human factor, is a key actor of the political activity, and consequently of political tolerance. It is remarkably incorporated, considering that peace and security are a social phenomenon and a real process. Political tolerance is ranked as one of the crucial factors for safeguarding peace and security when carried out through the implementation of anticipated activities, respectively through reasonable reaction in newly created circumstances, having in mind the importance of peace and security. Political tolerance is a political phenomenon where politics comes to expression as a skill, respectively as a real capability and ability of state leaderships as political actors to make maximum use of

what the objective circumstances have to offer in the segment of safeguarding peace and security.

In the case of political tolerance as a factor of safeguarding peace and security relevant to the Balkan situation, the Balkan countries are still greatly concerned because the international community does not sufficiently appreciate the contribution given by the states for the stability in this region. Instead of giving its contribution to sooner resolve some of the inherited problems, tensions and uncertainties are still prevailing. In spite of the numerous pessimistic analyses regarding the chances for the Balkan countries to sit at the negotiation tables, significant progress has been made in this respect. In this context, the integration of the Balkan countries in the world, European and regional structures, as well as in the collective security systems would be of great significance. The integration of the above mentioned structures would also strengthen the economic, political and military cooperation, so that the Balkan region would no longer be a burden to Europe, but its integral part.

When we speak about the defense policy in the Republic of Macedonia, as an independent and sovereign state, a clearly defined defense policy is required that would precisely establish the state interests and determine the goals of that policy for which the state, in accordance with its available resources, would organize a defense system. For the development of its own defense system, appropriate to the state needs and possibilities, serious scientific and professional researches and studies of each segment in this system is required, as this system must be reflected in the legislation.

Each state has different interests that most frequently are defined as national interests with long-term activity, exercised in a longer period of time, as well as short-term interests exercised through the daily domestic and foreign policy of the state. When formulating state interests, most frequently the so-called domestic factors play a decisive role, which subsequently determine the foreign policy of the state, which, depending on the situation, could be peaceful, aggressive or expansionistic.

As regards to the conflicts and international peace and security, there could be a dilemma regarding the relation peace-conflict, and could be stated that the conflict is a challenge to the national security in the sense that a solution must be found for overcoming the problem, i.e. a true and appropriate solution. This procedure would undoubtedly respect the models of international relations. There is a general opinion that the increased level of internal conflicts leads to anxiety and has a negative impact on the international peace and security, and therefore the concern about the question of political tolerance as a factor for safeguarding peace and security is a must for all democratic societies.

There are many pessimistic assessments that good cooperation among the Balkan people is impossible, but having in mind the geo-political, economic and security dependence of all states in the region, such cooperation is inevitable especially if they are resolute to follow the links leading to EU and NATO membership. Therefore, the current authorities of the Balkan states should make efforts to establish an active dialogue in order to overcome the stereotypes of the past and create more promising visions for their future. This activity is a condition for the security that would be more stable, so that there would be less fear that in

this part of the Southeast Europe some unpredictable situation might take place that would threaten peace and stability. Presently it is not difficult to accept the fact that this security situation is an outcome of NATO interventions, whose aim was to put an end to mass violation of human rights and by this to prevent anticipated ethnic cleansing in Kosovo by the Belgrade regime, that were models of undemocratic regimes during the past ten or more years.

In a period when the ideological differences are disappearing and when the entire process of democratization and functioning of democracy in these areas is built on the basis of new values in order to achieve political, economic and military transformation of the political power deserves special attention because the effects of some possible disturbances in one country could spread out. Therefore, peace and stability in all the Balkan countries is of paramount importance. Apart from the internal stability with all its parameters to be established by the political structure in power, the UNMIK success in Kosovo regarding its institutional and economic reconstruction is also of great importance. Besides UNMIK, KFOR, OSCE, Kosovo leadership, the international mission, whose aim is to safeguard peace and security in Kosovo, and lay down the foundations for the future economic and democratic order, would require an active economic, political, diplomatic activity by the neighboring countries with Kosovo, and specially by the countries included in the activities for EU and NATO membership. This is so, because the very situation in Kosovo is dependent on preservation of peace and stability in the region, where the integration processes, the regional and European processes and the processes in the segment of collective security systems have been stopped.

The present situation in Kosovo is going towards stabilization, and the changes of power in Serbia are of great importance for the states in the Balkan region and for our country, which means that there is a vast space for identifying a more acceptable solution and serious considerations for eliminating negative implications that might lead to some possible conflict. The successful NATO mission in Kosovo that would be a key for the stability and relaxation of the relations among the Balkan countries and a perspective for their EU and NATO membership, as two major pillars for stabilization of peace in these areas is seen in this context.

This means that the impact of the integration processes in the Balkan region after the NATO and EU enlargement is also of great interest for the Republic of Macedonia, an interest that might also be linked with its internal stability, because an understanding, mutual consensus of all relevant political parties for such a process has been found. Experts and diplomats who are following the integration processes acknowledge that the possible membership of the Republic of Macedonia, Albania and Bulgaria and the presence of NATO troops in Kosovo would mean a major perspective for strengthening economic, political and military cooperation so that this part of Southeastern Europe would no longer be a burden to Europe but rather its integral part expressed through their common interest for peace and cooperation.

USA together with the West European countries are rightfully continuing their efforts by encouraging the countries of Southeast Europe to cooperation among each other through

their programs for regional cooperation. But the condition set for this cooperation to be the main basis for their membership in EU and NATO, cannot be fully justified, unless their lack of readiness for cooperation is a treat to peace and stability.

All the movements towards NATO, assisted by its anticipated parameters of the Partnership for Peace Program and the EU strategic approach for the Balkan countries through the proposed stabilization and association agreements, as guidelines for full operation through the Stability Pact for Southeaster Europe, were gradually understood by the states aspiring to become members. These rules are a condition for their relations and set the mechanisms for regional cooperation among the neighbors, their internal stability (political, economic, inter-ethnic) as a requirement for real regional cooperation.

Following the spirit of European and NATO integration's, common points in the political, economic and security field would be established. In this respect, the political entities in the Republic of Macedonia should take the opportunity and lead the country in these integration's, following the integration programs, because the citizens fist of all need to feel safe and be equal and welfare state, and be away from the periods of poverty and internal instability. This would create basis for better trust and tolerance of any kind, rapprochement of people living in this region and realization of efforts of the democratic forces for building peace and stability.