

## CENTRAL AFRICA IN THE CONTEXT OF REGIONAL SECURITY

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*In the era of globalization all the countries worldwide take their own place in the global holistic organism. First of all, they can manage it via the system of regional cooperation (providing common security, trade policy etc.) that will further draw up the world's union. But it is almost impossible to implement if some regions are not engaged in cooperation. One the this regions is Central Africa that is dealt with wars, coups, mortality and malnutrition that aren't facilitating the common regional security.*

*In the article authors are trying to estimate the condition of regional safety in Central Africa, finding out reasons and explaining the challenges needed to be solved to harmonize regional security policy.*

**Key words:** regional security, globalization process, uneven economic development, "development traps", "bottom billion".

## ЦЕНТРАЛЬНА АФРИКА В КОНТЕКСТІ РЕГІОНАЛЬНОЇ БЕЗПЕКИ

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*В епоху глобалізації всі країни світу займають певне місце у єдиному цілісному організмі. Перш за все, цього вони можуть досягти завдяки системі регіонального співробітництва (у сферах безпеки, економіки тощо), яке в майбутньому переростає у єдиний світовий простір. Проте, вищезазване об'єднання навряд чи можливе, якщо якийсь зі світових регіонів залишиться поза взаємодією. Одним з таких регіонів є Центральна Африка, яка охоплена війнами, переворотами, смертністю та голодом, що ставлять перешкоди єдиній політиці регіональної безпеки.*

*У даному дослідженні автори намагаються оцінити стан регіональної безпеки у Центральній Африці, з'ясовуючи причини та пояснюючи виклики (проблеми), що мають бути подолані для гармонізації політики регіональної безпеки.*

**Ключові слова:** регіональна безпека, процес глобалізації, нерівномірний економічний розвиток, "пастки розвитку", "бідний мільярд".

## ЦЕНТРАЛЬНАЯ АФРИКА В КОНТЕКСТЕ РЕГИОНАЛЬНОЙ БЕЗОПАСНОСТИ

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*В эпоху глобализации все страны мира занимают определенное место в едином целостном организме. Прежде всего, в этом они могут достичь благодаря системе регионального сотрудничества (в сферах безопасности, экономики и т.д.),*

которое в будущем перерастает в единое мировое пространство. Однако, вышеозначенное объединение вряд ли возможно, если какой-то из мировых регионов останется вне взаимодействия. Одним из таких регионов является Центральная Африка, охваченная войнами, переворотами, смертностью и голодом, создающими препятствия единой политике региональной безопасности.

В данном исследовании авторы пытаются оценить состояние региональной безопасности в Центральной Африке, выясняя причины и объясняя преграды (проблемы), которые должны быть преодолены для гармонизации политики региональной безопасности.

**Ключевые слова:** региональная безопасность, процесс глобализации, неравномерное экономическое развитие, "преграды развития", "нищий миллиард".

**Introduction.** In today's fast moving world countries are coming closer because of the internationalization and globalization processes that embrace all the spheres of human activity. Most of all these trends concern neighboring countries as it becomes the background of further global cooperation. It means that success and prosperity of any country depends not only on its own decisions and actions, but also on situation near its boundaries. On the assumption of foregoing it is clear that regional security determines the model of state's behavior; well-being and way of decision-making (responses on challenges faced).

As it was said before, process of globalization is based on regional cooperation that in the long run turns into collaboration of regions and building the holistic world community. While one countries are successfully participating in assuring regional security and relations harmonization, others are being engaged in internal and external conflicts, revolts and instability, saying nothing of regional safety partnership. One of the regions, mired in breakdown, is Central Africa. That is why the estimation and encouraging of regional security activity in mentioned area is so important nowadays.

**Purpose of this article** is to research the state of regional security collaboration in Central Africa, to emphasize its problems and dealings.

**Materials.** A complex analysis of regional security issues is thoroughly given

by Soren Dosenrode [7], that provides a deep review but mostly concerned with economic problems. The wide range of issues in political and food security were investigated in the works of Paul Collier [5], Rene Lemarchand [6] and Ousmane Badiane [8]. An important place in the research is occupied by materials dealt with relations between countries and regional trends: Ludwick Esone Ndokang, André Dumas Tsambou [3], Rene Lemarchand [6] and others.

**Results.** Regional security is defined as an ideal type of order where members of a region attain a political stability by finding solutions to regional problem or sweeping them so firmly under the carpet that they do not reemerge [1]. A major assumption in this rendition of regional security is that states have succeeded in managing or eliminating problems that create ethnic, communal sub-national and socio-economic antagonisms which are often the cause(s) of conflict. There is also the assumption that there exist mechanisms within the community to deal with conflict when it occurs. The concept of regional security is more applicable in developed countries than in developing ones because the latter have more developed regional blocs. In developed parts of the world there is also is greater linkage of individual states with system security unlike in developing countries where the sense of insecurity is internal. Indeed insecurity in developing countries is attributable to uneven economic development, glaring disparities in wealth

and income and society and ethnic tensions [2, p. 2]. One of “the weakest” in the extent of regional security area worldwide where instability turned into a normal condition of one or another state is Central Africa, mired in coups, revolts and wars.

The end of the colonial period is marked by the accession of nations to independence after the bloody and especially ideological struggles against colonial powers. In Africa, the early post-colonial period is characterized by a concern for the empowerment of new public authorities in place, the stability of the newly created institutions and the need to protect themselves from other nations by signing bilateral States agreements or by creating states unions such as sub-regional unions. A situation of instability can be caused either by the colonial past [3, p. 114], the thirst for power (military coups or constitutional), ethnic hatred (as in Rwanda), the absence of strong democratic institutions, the existence of great inequalities leading to frustration to name only these [4]. Such a situation affecting a state manifests itself in several ways, either by civil and ethnic wars, leading to general chaos, destroying lives and families, and creating a society of orphans and refugees. A situation of political instability will bring uncertainty in the current government, which will cause it not to lay any action over the long run and not lay any vision of development, and thus lead the state in a critical situation that could cause a vicious circle of low growth and underdevelopment [3, p. 114].

This picture is the basis for gloomy assessments of African development prospects, characterized as “development traps”. Collier sees these problems as being particularly concentrated in Africa, with 70 percent of the “bottom billion” being African, and living in countries that have been or are currently in one or another of these “traps” [5, p. 3]. In Collier’s formulation there are four such “traps” in

which the countries he classified as the “bottom billion” are wedged:

- *The conflict trap*. Essentially, wars and coups keep countries from growing and hence dependent on primary commodities. But because they are poor, stagnant, and dependent on primary commodities they remain prone to wars and coups [5, p. 37]. Here we should mention the Great Lakes region. It matters because of its vast territorial expanse and the many borders it shares with neighboring states, and constant danger of violence spilling across boundaries. It matters because the Congo’s huge mineral wealth translates into a uniquely favorable potential for economic development. While claiming the largest deposits of copper, cobalt, diamonds and gold anywhere in the continent – it is for nothing that the Belgians called it a “a geological scandal” – more than 60 percent of its population lives below the poverty line. Because of ethnic and resources misunderstandings appalling bloodshed continues in the Central Africa. Not to mention violence, taken place in Rwanda, Burundi and Congo from 1994 to 2004 when the death toll was estimated to be approximately 5,5 million, till this day as many as 38 000 die every month of war-related causes [6, p. ix].

- *The natural resources trap*. On the world market countries of Central Africa play a role of raw materials exporters that make them very vulnerable and dependent on importers. Export of rows brings them lowest incomes causing high poverty and malnutrition rates [5, chapter 3].

- *The trap of being landlocked with bad neighbors*. Poor landlocked countries depend on their neighbors not just for their economic infrastructure and access to the sea, but also as export markets [5, chapter 4]. Ironically, the problem is worse for resource-scarce countries as they face additional hurdles to development of infrastructure even if for resource extraction. These problems are compounded by agglomeration of economic activity in

coastal locations with their easier access to global markets, leaving inland areas underdeveloped [7, p. 79].

• *The bad governance trap.* Countries in the bottom billion that also have bad governance and bad policies are most likely to end up as “failed states”, in which reform initiatives are quickly overwhelmed by those benefit from disorder [5, chapter 5]. But even good governance and good policies cannot propel a country into rapid growth if it does not have opportunities to grow.

Several serious crises occurred in 2014 that threatened food security and development prospects in the affected and surrounding areas. These included conflicts in northern Mali, northern Nigeria, South Sudan, and the Central African Republic, several of which led to humanitarian emergencies [8].

In general, civil wars kill people directly and immediately. They destroy property, hamper economic activity and deflect resources previously directed to the health system. Uncontrollable flows of refugees from one country to another will place individuals in deplorable conditions with no access to potable water and food. Refugee camps are a major cause of the deterioration of the health system due to living conditions that refugees undergo (consumption of non-potable water, housing insecurity, under nutrition, malnutrition, disease susceptibility, etc.). This causes the resurgence of several diseases such as malaria, cholera, tuberculosis, diarrhea, lung infections (pneumonia), HIV/AIDS, the latter being contracted by majority of refugees during sexual assault during crisis [3, p. 118]. In line with this thinking, Toole shows that the establishment of refugee camps in one country has an impact of at least one year on the increase of infectious diseases and the crack of the health system [9].

Also, the migration of refugees from one country to another can negatively affect the welcoming country because the supply

of health is already low in these developing countries, and it will be even more weakened relatively to the pressing demand for health goods and services. This would lead to price inflation on the supply of health care and medical products.

The precarious conditions in which refugees live are usually a source of epidemics and pandemics; these can easily and largely spread nationwide through snowball effect, meanwhile the health system in place is still very fragile. Moreover, the multiplication of these refugees swells the number of individuals only consumers (not producers / unemployed), making no contribution to the economy, thus driving down production, generating shortages and causing at the same time famines which are also the cause of many chronic diseases (kwashiorkor, beriberi ...)[3, p. 118].

For example, civil unrest in northern Mali, northern Nigeria, and the Central African Republic caused significant displacement of people from their homes and countries, led to elevated food prices, and caused a deterioration of the food and nutrition security situation in the affected and surrounding countries [8]. Conflict in Central African Republic has had a regional impact, more than 190,000 Central African refugees having fled to Cameroon, Chad, the Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) since December 2013[10]. In result, cassava prices in southern Chad rose sharply as a result of disrupted trade flows and the arrival of refugees from Central African Republic; at the same time high rates of acute malnutrition were reported among Central African Republic children in Cameroonian refugee camps [11].

**Conclusions.** As we may see, regional security is a vital part of the governmental policy, defining the conditions, directions and character of country's development.

Central Africa is considered to be the region with the weak regional security

circumstances, as its states are currently facing a number of challenging issues that make the cooperation and development of the states harder. The main problems Central Africa is concerned with can be defined as “development traps”:

- the conflict trap;
- the natural resources trap;
- the trap of being landlocked with bad neighbors;
- the bad governance trap.

In the sum-total the aforementioned concerns became a great deal for some states, not allowing them to build the common security system in their way of evolution and development. Moreover, some issues disturb not just national interests of the Central Africa states, but also make the world community think of their solving.

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