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## WORLD WAR THREE?

*Abstract:* When starting to write this article wars, political and social instability in many countries and particularly in the Middle East was mounting. Not so frozen conflict in Ukraine and rivalry in South China sea were escalating. In the meantime, Donald Trump won the elections in USA, and everything points to that, started relaxing the relations between Russia and USA. Still potentiality of Third World War should be examined, to see whether humanity was on a verge of something like that and if truly catastrophe is faraway. Author first analyses characteristics of two world wars, defines world war and research the eventuality of the new global armed conflict. Author questions current world trends in international politics and economy relevant for the possibility of new world war, and predicts short term trends in international order.

*Key words:* World War, Globalisation, USA, Russia, West, multipolarity, Syrian crisis.

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In the first half of the 1991 although it was very clear that inter-ethnic relations in Socialist Yugoslavia are incredibly tense, majority of people would say that war would not erupt. Yet, war did erupt. It is normal that people

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cannot easily abandon the habits and vision of the world they are living in. When it comes to war there is also a hope that situation won't slide in negative turn, and this usual mind-set –everything will end up well – additionally affects reasoning. This time, it is not Yugoslavia, or more precisely (not only) former Yugoslav republics that are in grave crisis that might transcend in military conflict but it is the world order that is in crisis which eventually may turn into something we might name the World War Three.

Conflagration of the war in Syria, tensions in South and in East China Sea, and on-going division of Ukraine is crisis that may evolve into Third world war. Middle East, Wide Pacific and East and South East Europe are areas of major confrontation between eroding west and challenging poles of power.

Syrian crisis is first that seems to bring the great powers on the brink of war for the first time since the Cuban missile crisis, although involving more actors. Of course Cuban missile crisis meant possibility of nuclear war and end of the world as we know it. If Third world war would be something like that, then probability of such an event is minimal. Yet, nature of the new military confrontation including big powers and more than one continent may be possible.

Indeed, situation was frightening. NATO was constantly expanding since the year 1990 in number of member states but also in number of military bases, offensive weaponry, in stocking armaments and organizing numerous military exercises and it is assuming openly confrontational stance toward Russia and China.<sup>2</sup> Both Russia and China are responding with exercises, with bolstering military bases and creation of new ones. This situation is valid at least until the end of 2016 that announces the transformation of the West into two different poles (Anglo-American and Euro-German).

After several states opposing or rejecting Western domination were occupied (Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya) or internally destabilized, Russia intervened in Syria. Islamic terrorism is surging in Middle East and in Europe. Middle East is in turmoil more than it has been prior to 'Arab winter' and several states are collapsing.

EU members France and United Kingdom (to be former EU member) were engaged in set of African wars. EU itself is experiencing exit of one of

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<sup>2</sup> "Pentagon Readies More Robust U.S. Military Presence in Eastern Europe", *Wall Street Journal* March 30, 2016, Internet, <http://www.wsj.com/articles/pentagon-readies-more-robust-u-s-military-presence-in-eastern-europe-1459324801>, accessed on: 29/08/2016.

the leading members – Great Britain – and strengthening of the inner bloc of Visegrad group countries. As UK decided to leave the EU, France need to reassess its military partners.

In the Far East, China surrounded for decades by USA and previously also British military navy, started building a web of artificial islands around small reefs and turning them in military outposts and airports. North Korea has developed more precise ballistic missiles capable of hitting Japan which in turns is evolving toward restoration of the Army (Japan officially has only defence forces and is not developing offensive weaponry) constitutional changes that would restore partially a major role of Emperor and open possibility for more robust foreign policy of government.<sup>3</sup> Elected president of USA, Donald Trump announces different policy in the approach toward China, Japan and South Korea. Imbalanced world after the end of the Cold War is trembling.

So it was no wonder that BBC foreign editor published article in February 2014 titled “What are the chances of a third world war?” Editorial was optimistic, yet later same year Pope Frances hinted at possibility that the world may be already in world war three by stating “perhaps one can speak of a third war.”<sup>4</sup> When Turkish army downed the Russian bomber above Syria speculations of the beginning of the WWII inflamed media and Internet social networks.<sup>5</sup> Since then Russia and Turkey managed to overcome that problem, but Turkey officially intervened in Syria and its war planes are more and more engaged in dogfights with Greek warplanes in Greek airspace.<sup>6</sup> Many media and some public personalities are speaking of the imminence of the new war of world scale. Already for years media and

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<sup>3</sup> “Conservative Japanese lobby group seeks to revise constitution”, *Stars and Stripes* July 18, 2016, Internet, <https://www.stripes.com/news/conservative-japanese-lobby-group-seeks-to-revise-constitution-1.419654>, accessed on: 28/08/2016.

<sup>4</sup> John Simpson, “What are the chances of a third world war?”, 24 February 2014 *BBC*, <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-26271024>, Accessed on 28/08/2016; “Pope Francis: World War Three Is Already Here”, *The Blaze* Sep. 13, 2014, Internet, <http://www.theblaze.com/stories/2014/09/13/pope-francis-warns-of-world-war-iii-fought-piecemeal-with-crimes-massacres-destruction/>, Accessed on: 28/08/2016.

<sup>5</sup> See for example: “World War Three could be just 30 SECONDS away as Turkey shoots down Russian fighter jet”, *Mirror* 24 NOV 2015, Internet, <http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/world-news/world-war-three-could-just-6890807>, accessed on 27/08/2016.

<sup>6</sup> “Greek-Turkish Fighter Jets in Dogfights Over Aegean”, *Greek Reporter* Dec 5, 2016, Internet, <http://greece.greekreporter.com/2016/12/05/greek-turkish-fighter-jets-in-dogfights-over-aegean/#sthash.nxvp5KxN.dpuf>, Accessed on 05/12/2016.

some public personalities announce that the world is on the brink of the World War Three.<sup>7</sup> Talking about the next world war in close or immediate future brought many leading international policy analyst and scientist to say something on the subject from Aleksandr Dugin to John Mearsheimer and Stratfor director George Fridman. While Dugin and Friedman predicted wars and major instability, Mearsheimer said that he believes how Russian and American relations will improve while relations between China and Russia will deteriorate. He sees mre probability in the conflict among USA and China.<sup>8</sup> Of course in 2014, on the hundredth anniversary of the WWI, similar stories have been popular, but are they with or without substance?

In order to answer this question in the period of the transformation, and crisis of economy, of political institutions and of democracy in the western world – that affects most of the world – we will a) examine the nature of the world wars and b) of what the reason/s for the new world war would be. Still after Brexit and victory of Donald Trump at presidential elections in USA, *differentia specifica introducta est* and offers us different scenario for world wars, or for conflicts in different regions during the establishment of multipolarity.

## World war

History knows of two great international wars labelled “World War”. First or Great War was waged for 4 years (1914-1918) and Second for six years (1939-1945). Previously maybe Napoleon wars may be deemed as something resembling World War, but they were waged only in Europe. They implicated major European powers plus Ottoman Empire and had

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<sup>7</sup> Like Italian politician and journalist Giulietto Chiesa, Roman Catholic Pope Francis, Romano Prodi, Italian and EU politician, Internet links: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iLGMiWsv-Pc>, <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-26271024>, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9cy7MpFuBtU>, <http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2014/07/just-how-likely-is-another-world-war/375320/>

<sup>8</sup> See: Alexander Dugin, “La Terza guerra mondiale non e’ mai stata cosi’ vicina”, *Katehon* 20.09.2016, Internet, <http://katehon.com/it/article/la-terza-guerra-mondiale-non-e-mai-stata-cosi-vicina>, accessed on: 20/09/2016; “John Mearsheimer at Valdai Club”, Valdai 18.10.2016, Internet, <http://valdaiclub.com/multimedia/photos/john-mearsheimer-at-valdai-club/>, accessed on: 21/10/2016; Yet George Fridman predicted WWII on several occasion since 2010. See for example: “George Friedman Predicts World War 3 Between Turkey and Poland”, Internet, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qtykfyU9CqI>, Accessed on: 03/10/2016.

consequences on various continents; still there was no notion of World War then. There was also Cold War during which there were many local armed conflicts fought in different continents except for Europe. But there was no direct military confrontation between great powers and thus no large number of casualties in multiple war theatres.

During both World Wars great powers from various continents participated on the one side or another. Political and economic, but also social consequences were felt across the globe, and in both cases the number of victims had double digit in millions. Yet massive number of casualties was present in many wars, as in Napoleonic wars, or the Genghis Khan and Timur Lenka wars. Few wars led only in China (Like *Taiping civil war* with 20-30 million deaths) had millions of casualties. Does massive death toll *per se* is not sign of the world war.

World wars are fought in order to resolve rising rivalry among big powers and thus bring down or consolidate actual world order. After defining in general the world war there should be analysis of the nature of world wars and of the nature of potential Third world war – if it is incumbent. Result of both world wars was the attempt to create some intergovernmental organisation with universal pretensions (League of Nations and United Nations) that will guarantee new order. Woodrow Wilson and his cabinet, backed by some of the richest American families of that time, opted for internationalisation of politics, but his policy was bankrupted at home.

So what is World war? Oxford dictionary briefly defines it as “A war involving many large nations in all different parts of the world. The name is commonly given to the wars of 1914–18 and 1939–45, although only the second of these was truly global.”<sup>9</sup> More substantive definition could be: It is international armed conflict waged in theatres on more than one continent, in which all or most of the great powers are participating, with political, economic and social consequences felt in various continents. These consequences regard also the redistribution of the power at the international level and thus changes in the world order.

This definition suits well for the previous two world wars. But, it does not say about the cause of the war. Does it say enough about the nature of the World War? Obviously not, since different World Wars have somewhat

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<sup>9</sup> At Oxford dictionary: Internet, <http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/english/world-war>, Accessed on: 08/09/2016.

different reasons and natures. Is our picture of rivalries crystal clear? If we take into account, the results of both wars we may understand the nature of both.

### *Cause and nature of world wars*

Despite politically motivated revisionist claims that would like to transfer blame and find culprit in Russia and its ally Serbia, as actors which actions caused the First World War,<sup>10</sup> majority of historians recognises German will to create empire at the expense, mostly of then Russia and territorial aspirations by Austro-Hungary and Italy as causes of war. But back then Great Britain and France, likewise their opponents, wanted to take over most of the territories run by Ottomans. London wanted to stop German and Russian growth.

Usually social scientists define WWI as conflict between two major alliances, brought about because the challenging new power (Germany) and its allies wanted the redistribution of world interest zones or colonies. Yet, Russian historian Nataliya Alekseevna Narotchnitskaya points that Great Britain was likewise interested in major war. British strategy was for centuries to prevent and limit leading continental force in Europe in order not to overwhelm British power, as Narotchnitskaya and other authors recognise. This is so called policy of equilibrium or balance of power in Europe. Since XVII century until the fall of Napoleon it was France that had to be prevented to dominate the continental politics. After 1815 Tsarist Russia was power to be balanced. But as the 20<sup>th</sup> century was approaching, Germany and Russia were two powers economically growing –and thus became principal objects of British subversive policies. Kaiser was imposing its will in European politics and Russia was spreading its influence in South-East Europe (in the Balkans) and territory in the Asian rim land (from Ottoman Empire to China). Unlikely alliance among Holy See, masonic Republic – France, British crown and tsarist Russia was crafted since the

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<sup>10</sup> That politics dictate (in part) history was witnessed recently in the years prior to 2014 and especially in that year as centenary of the WWI came. Hundred years after the WWI and more then 70 after the WWII, Germany and Austria were together with USA, France and UK parts of NATO while Serbia, and in particular Russia, became officially negative in western media and academia. See on that in: Mile Bjelajac, *1914-2014: ZAŠTO REVIZIJA?* Medija centar odbrana, 2014, pp. 248; Or article: Dragan Petrović, Slobodan Janković, „Zapadne zemlje o okolnostima i uzrocima izbijanja Prvog svetskog rata”, *Међународна политика*, јануар-јун 2014, Godina LXV, бр. 1153-1154, стр. 5-23.

1880s because Germany was judged as competitor of British and French colonial policy and British naval rival.<sup>11</sup>

Another aspect is economic and social situation. Before First World War and more emphasized before Second World War, strong social tensions were broiling in Italy, in Great Britain, in Russia (Failed revolutions in 1825 and in 1905), in France (ongoing battle between monarchists and Republicans, between secularists and devout Roman Catholics), in Weimar Germany before the Nazis took over. Economic crisis and tensions resulted in spread of authoritarian and dictatorial regimes and communist revolutionary parties in many European countries, in Spain, Poland, Italy, Germany, Yugoslavia, Hungary, Romania with strong pro fascist movements in Great Britain, and both rightist authoritarian and communist movements in France (*L'Action française* et other movements on the extreme right).

What were the results of the so called Great war? Classical geopolitics precisely explains it as death of continental empires Russia, Germany, Austro-Hungary and already previously weakened Ottoman empire. In effect Europe was weaker and less influential. On the other hand Great Britain and France consolidated and augmented their colonial territories adding to them the mandates by the newly established League of nations. Finally new great power emerged – the United States, and rising Japan was affirmed as regional power.

WWII again had similar targets. Third Reich, Japanese empire, Soviet Union and Italy wanted the redistribution of territories and new world order in which they would have their strong voice. Rising economic and political power of these states was clear challenge to the permanence of the newly established Anglo-American pre-eminence and continuation of the French web of alliances in central and South-East Europe. Big Economic crisis (1929-1933) was far from over and war, not only brought in opposed camps two rising challenging powers, Germany and Soviet Union, but helped USA overcome economic difficulties and accelerate new growth. Results were the annihilation of the Japanese and German military might, continued dominance and subtle control of Washington and London over their allies and clear coronation of the United States as leading world power in the West. On the other hand Soviet Union, which sustained the largest number of civil and military victims, and destructions of civilian

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<sup>11</sup> See: Наталия А. Нарочницкая, *Русија и Руси у светској историји, (Россия и русские в мировой истории)*, СКЗ 2008, (544), стр. 187, 175-177.

infrastructure, managed to exit the war as Great power and lead the eastern camp. *Dunc*, official Washington and Moscow were the leaders of two rival blocks after the WWII. Almost immediately started the Cold war which was eventually won by the West.

*What is current situation among the leading powers?*

Western economy is in protracted crisis ever since 2000, which was partially postponed by deregulation and financial bubble but it is continuing along the same lines although recession is reality behind the numbers of the official minor growth reflected by another financial bubble and digital printing money. Crisis of economy, but also of morality – of business ethics – is characterised by the liberalisation and concentration of wealth and subsequently of power in fewer hands.

Global wealth accumulated by restricted number of persons reached unprecedented amount globally, namely only 62 persons, according to the Oxfam report of January 2016 *An Economy for the 1%*, tiny stratum of people owns the same material wealth as poorest half of the world population.<sup>12</sup> “Rising poverty was always connected with lesser freedoms. Growing inequalities in nominally liberal democracies, (which promote) globalisation, are clear example that we are headed toward political systems that may be labelled as democratic but will have one superior caste and vastity of poor people, economically and thus politically dependent and subjugated by superclass.”<sup>13</sup>

“Current situation is characterized by the dictate of the world oligarchs (those superrich) asking freedom of market and not freedom of people. Actually in the name of the freedom of markets humans may lose freedom. In the name of the non-discrimination freedoms are eliminated. Right to live

<sup>12</sup> “62 people own the same as half the world, reveals Oxfam Davos report”, *Oxfam* 18 January 2016, Internet, <https://www.oxfam.org/en/pressroom/pressreleases/2016-01-18/62-people-own-same-half-world-reveals-oxfam-davos-report>, Accessed on: 26/08/2016.

<sup>13</sup> Slobodan Janković, “Freedom and loss of national sovereignty”, in: (Ed) Branislav Đorđević, Taro Tsukimura, Ivona Lađevac, *Globalized World Advantage or Disadvantage*, Global Resource Management Program, Doshisha University, Japan, Institute of International Politics and Economics, Makedonska 25, Belgrade, Belgrade, 2015, (166), p. 77. In the same article read more about the issue of the oligarchic takeover of sovereignty.



is increasingly limited with the right to die, from abortion to euthanasia. All this limits to freedom are being increasingly elevated in the most globalized countries. Right of association is threatened by extremist labelling for what was yesterday mainstream or traditional political culture. In the name of the better, safer and more equal globalised world, new labels and new limits are being imposed.

Since the definition of better and safer world does not depend on some universal teaching like the faith in God, but on the will and mind of narrow minority of the most influential and wealthiest persons, the space for the political decision making in the electoral process is shrinking. United States public and private entities make many strategies or analyses of future global trends. Planning in business or in ordinary life is in some measure normal and regular, but planning to shape the global processes ends with the imposition of the will in order to make 'predictable' environment which translates in domination of western elites and not in effective care for the ambient and wellbeing of peoples.<sup>14</sup> Politics in the contemporary westernised West (*West*, Alexandre Zinoviev) is overtaken and is decided not by or mostly not by politicians. Actual decision making process in the process of wealth accumulation is still only formally, and partially, being developed in the institutions. But the globalisation of economy, and privatisation of the public sphere affected the power of the state.<sup>15</sup> Conclusion is that in the West non-state actors have taken over state because the decision making process was made outside the institutions, but formal process is still necessary. This institutional part of the decision making process left space for the change. Election of Donald Trump for the president of USA, electoral fraud in presidential elections in Austria and results of referendum in Italy give hope for the restoration of the decision making in legal institutions.<sup>16</sup>

Crisis of political legitimism or of representation is evident in many countries. While trust in mainstream parties erodes new parties on the political right and left are emerging challenging system of political and

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<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

<sup>15</sup> Slobodan Janković, "Israeli borders Amid Globalisation and Regional Tensions", in: Dimitrijević, Duško, Mitrović Dragana and Lađevac, Ivona (ed), *The Meaning of Borders and Border Issues in the Age of Globalization: Europe and Asia*, Proceedings of round table conference, Institute of International Politics and Economics 2012, pp. 125.

<sup>16</sup> Here author refers to the first presidential elections in Austria that were repeated in december 2016.

financial oligarchies. In the USA it is the case with Donald Trump who won against rival candidate, but also against media and mainstream mediocre politicians of his own party – the Republicans.<sup>17</sup>

On the other hand China, on the brink of becoming the largest economy, launched in October 2015 China International Payment System (CIPS), thus starting to side-line western controlled SWIFT (The Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications).<sup>18</sup> Real economy has already translocated to the East and stayed only partially in Europe.

EU core is being transformed in federal super-state and pushed again against Russia (and China). Major opponents and challengers to the domination of the small elite in the post-democratic West are national elites of Russia and China and of several regional powers. On the other hand, Japanese sovereign forces want to transform also officially their country not only in economic but also in political and military giant in the Pacific region able to compete with China and regional powers.

Ideological substance of western elite is totalitarian and global, thus being not only antagonistic towards democracy but also toward cultural, ethnical and religious particularities.<sup>19</sup> On the globalisation of American elites, 'alienation of the upper class', from American homeland, and their denationalization wrote Samuel Huntington.<sup>20</sup>

Oligarchy of the Euro-American world (Canfora) transformed their countries in places nominally governed democratically. In fact, politics in the West became 'minimal', in a sense that elected politicians can discuss and decide on a very limited number of issues not pertinent to crucial politics of their countries, which are on the other hand decided by small

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<sup>17</sup> There was even a site <https://www.republicansagainstrump.org/>. See on NBC <http://www.nbcnews.com/politics/2016-election/meet-republicans-speaking-out-against-trump-n530696>, accessed on: 08/11/2016.

<sup>18</sup> "China launches international payment system", *Xinhua*, 2015-10-08, Internet, [http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2015-10/08/c\\_134692103.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2015-10/08/c_134692103.htm), Accessed on: 07/09/2016.

<sup>19</sup> See: Slobodan Jankovic, "Transformation of the Middle East after the Arab Spring", in: (Ed) Taro Tsukimura, Ivona Lađevac, *Major International Issues in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century from a Perspective of Japan and Europe*, Global Resource Management Program, Doshisha University, Japan, Institute of International Politics and Economics, Makedonska 25, Belgrade, Belgrade, 2015, (178), pp. 127-145.

<sup>20</sup> Samuel p. Huntington, "Dead Souls: The Denationalization of the American Elite", *The National Interest*, Spring 2004, pp. 4-7.

number of rich and powerful, often not elected individuals.<sup>21</sup> These oligarchs will not idly watch as the new multipolar system is being created. Although USA National Intelligence Council envisaged it in their report printed in 2008 (*Global Trends 2025: A Transformed World*) it is less likely that they will just watch as the world order changes.<sup>22</sup> Their only chance to stop it is to bring the world on the path of the WWII.

For maintaining and eventually spreading control West helped destabilization of many countries in Greater Middle East, in Latin America possibly even in Sub-Saharan Africa.<sup>23</sup> In order to destabilise Russia, China and India and to maintain grip on EU, Anglo-American financial and political elites, formed in decades of internationalisation and globalisation led by round tables (first idea of big business – Milner, Rothschild, Rhodes – of informal power centres outside institutions to govern the world), by Council of Foreign Affairs, Bilderberg and Trilateral meetings, used among others, their relationship with radical Muslim organisations (first in Afghanistan, Chechnya, Kosovo, BiH, then in Egypt, Algeria, Libya, Syria, finally with moderate Muslim movement of Fethullah Gulen in Turkey). Della Valle describes this alliances as American tools for the world dominance. “We are dealing *de facto* with the nation (USA) who understands its survival and continuity in terms of total (*spectrum*, added by S.J.) domination – American strategists modestly say ‘global leadership – of the world.’”<sup>24</sup> Essentially period from 1990 until the second decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century was

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<sup>21</sup> Luciano Canfora, Gustavo Zagrebelsky, (a cura di Geminello Preterossi), *La maschera democratica dell'oligarchia*, La terza 2014, pp.135. Particularly pages 18-23.

<sup>22</sup> *Global Trends 2025: A Transformed World*, Superintendent of Documents, US Government Printing Office, Washington November 2008, pp. V-viii.

<sup>23</sup> See: Слободан Јанковић, „Арапско пролеће и могућност прекрајања постојећих граница у Арапском свету”, *Међународна политика*, 2013, vol. 64, бр. 1152, стр. 74-90; Slobodan Janković, “Transformation of the Middle East after the Arab Spring”, in: (Ed) Taro Tsukimura, Ivona Lađevac, *Major International Issues in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century from a Perspective of Japan and Europe*, Global Resource Management Program, Doshisha University, Japan Institute of International Politics And Economics, Makedonska 25, Belgrade, Belgrade, 2015, (178), pp. 127-145; Slobodan Janković, Aleksandar Gajić, “EU Security Policy in North Africa and in the Middle East”, *Serbian Political Thought* No. 1/2015, Year VII, Vol. 11, pp. 39-69.

<sup>24</sup> Alexandre Del Valle, *Guerre Contro l'europa: Bosnia Kosovo Cecenia...*, Edition Des Syrtes 74, rue de Sèvres, 75007 Paris, p. 2. See: Abbiamo de facto a che fare con una nazione che pensa la sua sopravvivenza e la sua continuità stessa in termini di dominazione totale – gli strateghi americani dicono pudicamente “leadership globale”—del mondo.

characterised by preponderance of the USA and UK alliance over their western allies and over most of the other countries. After Trump, Germany vies for (short) leading place among the backers of globalisation agenda – so called leadership of the free world. (Question is what is the free world and is it shrinking?)

### **Web of crisis**

“The U.S. and Russia are ever closer to war; all sides, including the United States, remorselessly violate both international law and the basic canons of human decency” was statement of Chas Freeman, JR., Chairman, Projects International Inc., former Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, former U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense, at the Middle East Policy Council Capitol Hill Conference, October 13, 2016.<sup>25</sup> United States and its allies feel threatened by Chinese military strengthening which is answer to the ring of countries surrounding Chinese coast. Does Chinese armed submarines appeared for the first time in Pacific.<sup>26</sup> Japan responds to Chinese military growth and North Korea development of nuclear ballistic missiles with higher spending for defence.<sup>27</sup>

At the moment enmity and confrontation involving Russian and American partners was in Ukraine and in Syria. Between Western and Iranian proxy partners conflict was ongoing in Yemen. Civil war in Yemen involves directly or indirectly also Saudi Arabia, and most of Gulf countries, partially even Egypt. Lebanon had no legal parliament and no president, war between Turkey and PKK restarted in August 2015, Syria and Iraq are partially occupied by the so called Islamic State and foreign fighters and foreign armies are fighting in their soil. Furthermore, presence and action of Russian, Turkish and American forces in Syria is even more dangerous as each side has its own differing interests. Turkish ground units entered Syria

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<sup>25</sup> Chas W. Freeman Jr., “The Middle East and the Next Administration”, Lobelog: Foreign Policy, Internet, <https://lobelog.com/the-middle-east-and-the-next-administration/>, Accessed on 02/11/2016.

<sup>26</sup> Elias Groll, Dan De Luce, “China Is Fueling a Submarine Arms Race in the Asia-Pacific”, *Foreign Policy* August 26, 2016, Internet, <http://foreignpolicy.com/2016/08/26/china-is-fueling-a-submarine-arms-race-in-the-asia-pacific/>, Accessed on: 08/09/2016.

<sup>27</sup> “Japanese Government Urges Another Increase in Military Spending”, NY Times, Aug. 30, 2016, Internet, [http://www.nytimes.com/2016/08/31/world/asia/japan-defense-military-budget-shinzo-abe.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/08/31/world/asia/japan-defense-military-budget-shinzo-abe.html?_r=0), Accessed on: 01/09/2016.

in August 2016. Russia, Iran and Syria have practical military alliance in the country led by Assad which has been for long major neighbouring enemy of Jewish state. USA special forces are in Syria at least since spring 2016, and had first casualty in November of that year.<sup>28</sup> USA, Saudi Arabia and web of other Arab countries are helping and financing various terrorist and guerrilla groups destroying Syria. Most of these groups is waging war in order to establish Muslim country based on strict application of Sharia (same objectives have been proclaimed by former Al Nusra front, renamed Jabhat Fatah al-Sham in July 2016, and by western funded Ahrar al Sham or Jabhat Fateh al-Sham).

### **Nature and eventuality of the new World War**

WWI was war against old continental European empires that opposed modernity and democracy; These empires it was a war that destroyed Russia, Ottoman, Austria-Hungarian and German empire. WWII was fought against Europe and new rising powers that challenged Anglo-American domination along with the French Republic colonial empire. Third Reich and Japan were challenging powers as well as Soviet Union, consolidated under Stalin. Compromise was to make alliance with one of the challenging sides in order to defeat one enemy and to concentrate late on another. Both wars were ultimately wars against man and for the triumph of technique, of technical understanding, triumph of dead souls.<sup>29</sup>

If WWIII should be alike two previous, then it should involve major powers fighting each other. Those who shaped current world order would want to maintain it, defend it against the pretensions of emerging powers and contenders, and eventually consolidate it, as United Kingdom and France wanted in the First World War. China and Russia are emerging powers. India, Iran, Germany, Japan are emerging as regional strong countries having economic or military capacity to contend the big powers in their regions and spread their influence at least locally.

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<sup>28</sup> "First US service member killed in Syria", *CNN* November 25, 2016, Internet, <http://edition.cnn.com/2016/11/25/politics/us-service-member-killed-in-syria/>, Accessed on 26/11/2016.

<sup>29</sup> That the First world war was against man, against its heart, wrote Serbian author Vladimir Velmar-Janković in 1928: В. Велмар-Јанковић, *Огледи о књижевности и националном духу. Играчи на жици*, Задужбина Светог манастира Хиландара, Београд, according to: Владимир Димитријевић, *Тржиште или храм: Становиште Владимира Вујића*, Catena Mundi Београд, 2016, pp. 270.

Yet today, more than in world of the First and the world of the Second World War major countries that shaped world order are controlled and influenced by superrich elite whose capital is connected and concentrated in fewer hands, as clearly seen in Oxfam and other reports on the number of people having the same wealth as poorest half of the world population.<sup>30</sup>

Western elite is by nature global, just as their appetites. Their substantive aim is to transform societies over the world, deconstruct peoples and traditions — group identities, since group identity be it religious, ethnic or national is obstacle for the formation of the global society, for the endgame of the westernised elites. Global identity assumes lessening or dissolution of previous firm global identity – ethnic, religious or national. “Traditions and values ... are gradually designed as biased, discriminative, parochial (with pejorative connotation), and retrograde. One of them is patriotism and to collective identity linked values (religious, cultural and other observance of tradition, namely respect or practice of the old rituals). As opposed to them, the forces behind globalisation are emphasising global and individual identity, rights of minorities and moral relativism. Propagated individual identity is ultimate expression of egomania and hedonism as opposed to any collective responsibility that guarantees mutual respect and behaviour, especially sacrifice directed toward the collective good.”<sup>31</sup> Strong national states and rebel political and cultural actors inside the Westernised Western countries (Zinoviev) thus represent front against global elite managing transnational corporations (TNC) and societies in many countries.

War of the worlds as any other starts as war of the words. Mechanisms of the creation and presentation of the other as enemy, as dehumanised side in the West is already present toward Russia. Propaganda in mass-media and concrete security and economic acts that may lead to real conflict such as creation of new bases around Russia and China, and in the same tie build-up of existing or creation of new bases by Russia and China were only some of the ominous signs of the looming conflagration at the world level.

But economic situation that deprived masses in the West, cultural transformation against Christian and in Japan traditional values along with economic crisis produced reaction and changes. West is eroding. Angela

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<sup>30</sup> “62 people own the same as half the world, reveals Oxfam Davos report”, op. cit.

<sup>31</sup> See more in: Slobodan Janković, “Collective Identity and Loyalty to National States in the Balkans”, in: Duško Dimitrijević and Ivona Lađevac (ed.), *Challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and the Region*, Proceedings of the Round table Conference, Belgrade 2013, pp. 79-95.

Merkel's weakening position is public image of westernised West, of those West that wants to subdue Russia and eventually China. Although EU and USA still confirm economic sanctions at the end of 2016, it may be the last time in the short term that West took unified stance on Russia. Russia together with regional actors in the Middle East, Turkey and Iran, and with China in the UN managed to conclude agreements and actions in Syria without Western involvement and/or effective western opposition.

World that unfolds is multipolar, and unstable differently than it was just year ago. Still, chances that everything may slide to catastrophe are not nulled. Turkish provocation of Greece may turn into war if grave error is made. Pakistan and India are constantly playing with fire. Both countries have significant partners. More robust Japan and China with USA backing could detent China for a while, but the question is, how long? EU elites wants to transform the Union into federal state, but this policy has strong opposition inside the EU, in Poland, Italy, tomorrow in France and in Austria, in Slovakia. Here the main question is whether EU will first dissolve or become federal state with less members and influence than current EU?

Globalised elites are on the war path against their own peoples and against international actors that defy their aims. Push for the end of history produced creation of the world that will likely offer new possibilities for the countries on the edges of the interest zones of major international actors, but certainly won't cancel wars, as world and regional powers will continue to compete for their interest zones and influences outside them. World of the next 5 to 10 years may well be prelude before next occasion for the major conflagration among at least two major powers, the Third world war.

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