

KAPITEL 11 / CHAPTER 11 ¹¹

GLOBAL PROBLEMS OF WAR AND PEACE IN MODERN CONDITIONS

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Introduction

The problem of war and peace on our planet is becoming relevant today, although traditional problems that have existed for centuries and decades remain. Geopolitical problems, or problems of preserving peace on Earth, are related to the peculiarities of interaction between countries on the political map of the world. These problems cause military conflicts and threaten humanity with a World War. The military arsenals of countries around the world are represented by so many nuclear, chemical and biological weapons that can destroy the planet itself. Every year, humanity creates new types of weapons, means of destroying people and various buildings.

Systematically, dozens of zones of instability ("hot spots") arise in the world, where armed confrontations of various groups of the population, peoples or states take place. Such places tend to grow and turn into entire districts. Conflicts in them continue for years, involving an increasing number of countries and peoples.

11.1. Geography and wars today

The end of the Cold War marked the beginning of the globalization debate, for which many conflicting theories have been developed to date. According to Mazis I. T., globalization is a planetary-scale geographical phenomenon, which concerns a set of homogenization processes at two levels: at the level of the supranational economy (the economy that transcends national borders) and at the level of culture. However, the problem of globalization today includes a number of broader political, social, economic as well as security, defense and war issues. Undoubtedly, however, the priority issue is the relationship between the nation-state and supranational decision-making processes. In the context of globalization, it seems that the process of critical political decision-making is shifting from the nation-state level to the supranational or transnational level, making the role of the state complementary, secondary or negligible (Harchaoui, 2017).

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In this context of globalization, the concept and content of risk and threat is changing. It exceeds the limits of the national and is generalized. It is denationalized and denationalized. It is estimated that a new global society is being created, with the minimization or even complete abolition of the intervening role of the state where, given the increasing interdependence of the human population of the Earth (due to the increasing flow of capital and goods) it places individual interpretations of global risks.

According to P. Kennedy, the picture of the world community after the end of the Cold War is completely different from what it was before. The dissolution of the USSR alone resulted in the creation of a significant number of new states. Also, the USA The undisputed world ruler where now responsible for protecting the world economy, trade and technology, but they failed to prevent a further impetus for a was growing year by year. Therefore, the end of the Cold War did not put an end to the controversy. On the contrary, it seems to have created new identities based on cultural data and led to new forms of conflict. In the international political arena, the acquisition or increase of power of a power and consequently in the issue of security it seems that the global conflict has been replaced by regional conflicts (Fettweis, 2017).

After the end of the Cold War, some countries began to develop new ones, but also to revive old rivalries. They look for groupings and find them with countries that share the same culture and the same culture. Politicians will talk about "wider" cultural communities that transcend the borders of the nation-state, such as "Greater China", "Greater Serbia", "Greater Turkey", "Greater Iran" and the like. The development of the region on the basis of cultural characteristics and criteria is now moving in parallel with globalization. This will, of course, result in the development of various regional organizations, while this overall trend will increase the chances of regional conflicts such as between Muslims and non-Muslims. Consequently, the identity crisis of many states, but also of ethnicities, after the end of the Cold War led to cultural coalitions and conflicts. In the same context, a nationalist upsurge includes the minorities, which through the strengthening of their cultural characteristics and identity, usually claim their union with neighboring countries from which they were previously detached after power-sharing agreements between the Great Powers. Even these cases lead to conflicts and imbalances, even at the regional level (Harchaoui, 2017).

Therefore, the world community today is faced with a number of growing,



complex and multidimensional problems compared to the past. Some of these problems are: the population explosion and the growing demographic inequalities between rich and poor countries, the environmental challenges that are qualitatively different from those of the past, the way in which today's technology makes some traditional professions redundant and therefore the issue of unemployment.

11.2. Possible causes of war

It is a fact that both current and future decisive conflicts focus on the Eurasian continent. The division between East and West during the Cold War seems to have favored the North, and now the contrast is reflected in the distinction between North and South, as a product of the Cold War. The end and termination of the latter led to the imposition of a supranational geography of conflict. Thus, in the last twenty years, an arc of controversy has formed in the south of the Eurasian continent. This arc seems to start from eastern Turkey, with Kurdistan, to reach Kashmir. That is, it includes northern Iran, the southern part of the former Soviet Central Asia and Afghanistan. Within this geographical context, tensions and causes of conflict do not stem from a single cause, but are the result of a number of factors of instability: absence of state, state inadequacy, energy resources, illicit wealth (drugs), traditionally organized smuggling, scarcity forces of real interest for problem solving, development of paramilitary organizations and many more (Gat, 2017).

What seems to prevail is that no matter how many threats and dangers appear in new forms and content or are presented more intensely than in the past, they are a continuation of the interpretation that the structural imbalances of the world system are what lead to the use of violence and war. conflicts. Inequality between North and South is the fundamental and inherent cause of transnational or regional differences and problems. Wealth flows are constantly in imbalance in favor of the North, just as they have been in the past. This imbalance seems to continue to exist at the beginning of the 21st century and to determine and direct military strategies even if some factors (individual outbreaks of war - terrorism) try to rearrange the differences between the different forces.

In this light of the ongoing global structural imbalance, which has its roots in the distant past, it is worth emphasizing the magnitude of the problems that may arise in the future from demographic, land and water issues (Gat, 2017).



11.2.1. Demographic causes

The manifestation of violence and global conflicts are largely explained through the demographic study of the countries involved. However, in the 21st century it may well be the very cause of future wars.

The population of a country is most often related to its power. The quality of the population is also identified with its power. For example, today the West whose population is aging is a worrying fact when confronted with the rapid development of the Third World. We must also not forget the phenomenon of migration, which has developed particularly today and which is characterized by many countries as an invasion.

Today, the earth is inhabited by about 6.2 billion people living in a context dominated by inequalities between continents, regions and states. The most populous regions are East and South Asia, Europe, the northwestern United States, southeastern Brazil, the west coast of Africa, and the Middle East. At the continental level, the one with the largest population and the most concern is Asia. In particular, China, India, Indonesia, Pakistan and Bangladesh are the countries with really large populations (Brooks et al., 2019).

The power of a state is connected not only with its numerical dimension, but also with its qualitative one. As the population of the western world ages, so does the fear of the effects of imbalance on the rapid development of the Third World. Consequently, immigration is perceived as an invasion by Westerners. At the end of the 20th century, migration involved the movement of populations between western countries. In recent years, immigrants in the western world have come from non-western countries. In general, it seems that Western societies either do not want to assimilate immigrants or have great difficulty in doing so. The consequences of a continuing lack of immigration assimilation may create countries that are divided, for example, between Christian and Muslim communities, with corresponding social and economic consequences for the country itself (Andregg, 2016).

However, demographics not only determine conflicts at country level but are often a factor in internal conflicts. In addition, it is a tool for many regimes to regulate the ethnic groups that exist in their territories. Modern forms of war seem to be largely determined by internal conflicts. In recent years, it seems that the coincidence of demographic growth and rural exodus has led to the proliferation of large poles in a number of southern countries, where civil violence is developing that is difficult to control. This, in essence, means that this framework favors uprisings.



Unemployment, poverty, crime and deprivation are clearly causes of civil strife (Brooks et al., 2019).

11.2.2. Lack of lands

The land was, for many years, a great economic capital, and in many cases the struggle for its preservation was identified and confused with the love of the homeland. This perception seems to have receded today, especially in developed countries, but it is still maintained in areas with high populations (Palczewska, 2016).

The question of land was, of course, also connected with the acquisition and maintenance of the colonies. In the colonies each country sent a small group of people, whose goal was the exploitation of the natives to the last degree, often reaching the point of physical extermination of indigenous peoples (Central America).

In countries where population size exerts demographic pressure, there is a shortage of land and this very often leads to conflict. These conflicts can be either civil or transnational. In civil strife, conflict is mainly social and ideological. At the state level, however, the issue is political since, as found through the development of the present study, many conflicts have had as their cause the protection or expansion of a country's natural borders, its vital space (as in the case of the Germans) and safety zones (Palczewska, 2016).

When land is scarce and people are in surplus, the same scenario of land disputes is repeated. A good example could be a demographic boom in Japan. Japan is a small, proportionally inland country which means that the Japanese would face a serious survival problem. It would, therefore, be a reason for its possible activation and expansion to mainland Asia in order to increase its living space. Even in a postmodern version of a planet of 10 billion people, unequally distributed, conflicts over the earth will remain, for a long time, a source of explosive situations.

11.2.3. Water resources

Another geographical element that has been and is the source of many conflicts is water. Today, in particular, although there is no shortage of water, the abuse of it leads to significant effects on state relations.

It should be noted that at this time on our planet, a quarter of the world's population does not have access to adequate quality water, that is, drinking water. Especially in poor countries, and in countries that do not have large water reserves,



millions of people die from drinking contaminated water. Of course, water consumption depends on the wealth of each country. For example, in some African countries it consumes less than 6 cubic meters per capita per day, while in the United States it is 800 cubic meters per capita. Over the last century, water consumption worldwide has increased by 700%. The main consumer of water is the agricultural sector and this increase, which is also related to demographic development, is logical. The larger the population, the more agricultural production is needed, and therefore more water. And geopolitically, however, water in many cases is a cause of conflict, especially in the case of its scarcity or in the event that it increases the cost of consumption. In Bolivia, for example, there was a rural uprising in the spring of 2000 when water consumption increased (Simpson, 2017).

According to international organizations, water scarcity will be reduced to a major geopolitical issue, as by 2050 the world population will have exceeded nine billion, while water demand will increase by 64 billion cubic meters per year. It is also estimated that in 2030, more than five billion. People will not have access to a reliable water purification system. In addition, water is expected to be a source of conflict between neighboring countries, as 40% of the Earth's inhabitants live in more than 200 transnational basins, whose water is shared by more than two states in each case.

The issue of water, however, is not the only cause of problems with regard to its consumption. Water has had a special value and importance in the form of sea lanes in the past, both for commercial and military purposes. Today, apart from the issue of navigation, international law has also focused on the way water is managed, both in fisheries and in the production of hydroelectric power, thus linking international law with the law of the sea. However, the problems have not been resolved and it is typical that today there are about 300 agreements on this issue, but still do not seem to be enough (Jaoul-Grammare & Perrin, 2016).

The importance of water, of course, increases when tensions between stakeholders concern other issues. An example is the Middle East, which is characterized as one of the "warm" zones. The distribution of Yarmouk and Jordan waters creates tensions between Israel and Palestine, Syria and Jordan. Israel, which controls the distribution of water west of the Palestinian territories on which the Palestinians depend, is dependent on its neighbors for part of its water supply. This issue will be exploited by its opponents' policies, making the water problem present in every Tel Aviv political or diplomatic negotiation.



The same goes for the issue of the use of the Euphrates, which is a source of conflict between Turkey, Syria and Iraq. The origin of the problem is linked to an Ankara plan for water management (1980) which included the construction of a huge dam on the Euphrates. This advantage will serve various political goals of Turkey, such as forcing Syria to abandon its support for the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) (Jaoul-Grammare & Perrin, 2016).

Water could also be a deadly weapon in the hands of terrorists. Through a systematic and organized drinking water contamination operation, it could make high-density zones the recipients of irreparable effects on their health and lives.

It is clear, then, that water is not in itself a source of conflict and controversy but a claim to its use between two political formations. It is, in essence, an important factor that determines the power relations between two or more states. Water, therefore, can be an excellent diplomatic and political tool for the successful achievement of strategic goals (Hessel, 2019).

Conclusions

The world community today is faced with a number of growing, complex and multidimensional problems compared to the past. Some of these problems are: the population explosion and the growing demographic inequalities between rich and poor countries, the environmental challenges that are qualitatively different from those of the past, the way in which today's technology makes some traditional professions redundant and therefore the issue of unemployment.

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When land is scarce and people are in surplus, the same scenario of land disputes is repeated. Even in a postmodern version of a planet of 10 billion people, unequally distributed, conflicts over the earth will remain, for a long time, a source of explosive situations.

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Preventing World Wars remains the most important global problem of humanity. And there is every reason for this. Scientists estimate that over the past 6 thousand years, people have experienced more than 14.5 thousand wars, in which 3 billion 640 million people died. War causes unprecedented damage to human populations and ecosystems.

Any military actions cause damage to the environment, especially if they are conducted over a large area for a long time, but even in short-term military conflicts, environmental emergencies can arise if a possible enemy uses modern means of destruction. Deliberate negative human influences on nature and the environment for military purposes are called ecocide (biocide, environmental warfare). In our time, weapons of mass destruction – nuclear, chemical and bacteriological-have the most destructive potential. All components of the natural environment, and above all people, are defenseless against these types of weapons.