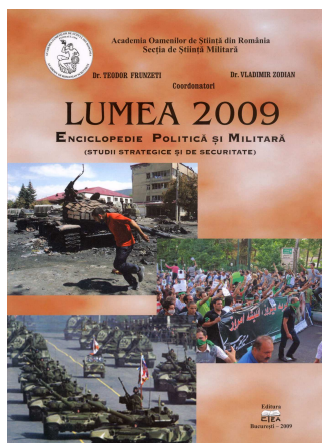


**NEW
EDITORIAL
RELEASES**

THE WORLD 2009 **POLITICAL AND MILITARY ENCYCLOPEDIA** **(Strategic and security studies)**



Lieutenant-General Professor **Teodor FRUNZETI**, PhD and Colonel (ret.) **Vladimir ZODIAN**, PhD are the coordinators of the valuable team of authors, who, following an impressive workload, pointed towards security analyses, having succeeded to conclude the research and studies comprised in an encyclopedia which exceeds a thousand pages. The authors wrote thoroughly, showing professionalism when writing about present international relations and international security, about contemporary crises, weaknesses, current threats and risks, about the global economic situation and the financial-economic crisis, about the

EU energy-related security and the competition for the European Union, Euro-Atlantic relations and Romania's foreign policy in the years 2008-2009, about the security environment in the Expanded Black Sea Area, the Russian Federation, Asia, the Middle East, India, Oceania and Africa; they also referred to current military issues worldwide. By analyzing the political, economic and military world of 2009, they came to the conclusion that this year's main feature is the financial crisis of global dimensions, which represents a crisis of the globalization itself that initially emerged in the US, because the Americans had consumed in the past 25 years more than they produced. The world's states interfered to reestablish the situation of the insolvent banks, and the IMF credited the countries under threat.

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The G-20 group adopted an action plan to counterpoise the global crisis and the transformation of the financial-banking system, all because the capitalist financial system had collapsed in September 2007, "in the way that the market self-regulation paradigm was invalidated by reality" and the disaster from the financial-banking system caused an unprecedented economic decrease at global level.

The authors say it is difficult to foresee the end of the crisis. Likewise, they analyze and put a question mark on the capacity and capability of rebuilding, on a short term, the fundamentals of an economic-financial boom. The states have already interfered through capital infusions in the banks which are under threat and in some insolvent companies, going as far as to their nationalization. In the reputable analysts' viewpoint, the economic-financial crisis is the perverted effect of globalization, which must be reconsidered under multiple aspects (economic, institutional, geographical and hierarchical), because the competition between the world's powers is not abandoned, and the nations (nation-states) continue to be in sharp competition which queries mankind's future looked at (too simply) as just "a triumphal march of democracy and free market". Therefore, it looks like the competition has revived, and the US, although it has many points ahead, gives hope to the competitors to be coming close to the first place worldwide. The National Intelligence Council estimates for the horizon of the year 2025 the emergence of a multi-way global system, as a consequence of the rise of the new powers - Brazil, Russia, India and China (BRIC). In the year 2025, China might reach the first place in the global supremacy and the economic progress will allow it, together with the other emergent economic powers, to choose the convenient economic and government formation, thus avoiding the embracement of the western rule (capitalism and western democracy). The confrontation for resources and the adopted approach come to the forefront and the war against terrorism runs second. The Unites States' foreign policy and its military strategy around the year 2025 will take shape beyond the economic benefits.

Therefore, the place of the "evil axis" will be taken by the "chaos axis" or the "convulsion" in terms of which the Unites States' power is declining, economically speaking, and in the nation's cohesion due multiple causes (i.e., the excessive ideological principles, the political errors and the arrogance of the power). On the pyramid of the world's power, the United States is on top, and on the next steps we find: China, Japan, India, Russia, Great Britain, France, Germany and Brazil, states which can be the main partners of the United States or that can block the American initiatives; next there are oil and gas producers, regional actors,

NEW EDITORIAL RELEASES

responsible states, problem-states and, of course, non-state actors. Hence, the geographical distribution of power and its structure have changed, meaning that the economic factor has become the most powerful, the military component has diminished, but the diplomatic dimension and media have increased. Under these conditions, the United States needs certain partners under the form of small and *ad-hoc* coalitions to resolve some particular issues.

Russia continues the policy of bringing back under its influence area the formal republics of USSR and also the politics of surceasing of the extension towards East of EU and NATO, using the energetic resources weapon.

The hopes of Romania in resolving the issues of Moldova are strictly circumscribed to EU and NATO and to their role in relation to Russia.

As related to the global security issues, where the main role pertains to the US, the economic dimension is and will be determinant, and the rest will be below this state.

In the future, the threat of some huge conflagration is not foreseen, but there is the risk of a global pandemic which will led to a similar forces commitment, prevailing the risk of some small conflicts as territorial and temporal dimension.

However, there can still appear some surprise-events, as in the years 2001 or 2008, which can change the history in a manner that cannot be foreseen at present.

The great success of the previous works - "The World 2005" and "The World 2007" - shows that "The World 2009" represents a reference publication in the field of the international relations and security studies, placing us ahead of some rethought editions, having a new internal economy, which makes a current X-ray of the international environment by stressing out the main political, economic and military forces and their future prospects, as well as the security analyses of all hot zones of the world.

The prestigious authors' team gives us an encyclopedia which we recommend to teachers, students, learners and to all who are interested in the acquiring scientific knowledge of complex geo-strategic aspects of today's world.

The following years and do not provide us with certainties but uncountable events and even unforeseen "shocks" like energetic insecurity, weather changes, crises and conflicts.

The security analyses collected in this volume have succeeded to outline the possible choices for the predictable future, which also suggests changes in the

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US's role. The human actions, including the political-military ones, cause the obtained results, and the history lessons teach us that leaders and their ideas have been the main factors of "change of the game". Therefore, in the following years, they will have an essential role in shaping the political-military events of the future world which will be more fragmented and with more conflicts.

The encyclopedia that we present here has the purpose of helping the international leadership process and cooperation in solving the global issues, through the prominence of some of the possible choices.

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