

THE ARAB SPRING – REGIONAL AND GLOBAL EVOLUTIONS AND CONSEQUENCES

*Major General (ret) Professor Constantin MINCU, PhD**

The article briefly presents the developments in the Arab World between December 2010 and February 2012, epitomizing on: the international context, the geopolitical and economic importance of states from Northern Africa and the Middle East, causes, goals, characteristics and consequences of the „Arab Spring”, the implications of these movements in the repositioning of the great powers and regional actors in the following period.

Keywords: Arab Spring; geopolitics; oil production; causes; goals; characteristics; consequences.

2011 was marked by the revolutions in the Arab world and by the fall of the dictatorial (authoritarian) regimes from Tunisia, Egypt and Libya and also by the onset of some partial reforms in many other countries from the North of Africa, the Middle East and the adjacent areas.

Although the more or less violent popular events from the aforementioned countries were presented as heroic acts of a population craving for liberty and democracy, last year's analysis strongly questions the real target of revolutions and riots.

Many analysts and observers of diverse orientations from the Occidental world, Russia, China and the Arab countries try and often manage to design a complex spectrum of interests and conditionings leading to geopolitical, geo-strategic and economic power games (the race for oil and other strategic raw materials),

* Titular member of the Academy of Romanian Scientists, scientific secretary of the Section of Military Sciences, member of the Honorary Council of the Academy of Romanian Scientists; email: mincu_constantin@yahoo.com, phone: 0722303015; fax: 031402180.

situations wherein democracy, human rights and social justice are forgotten and uninteresting.

1. The international context in the last few years (2008-2012)

Many conspiracy theories (with a sense of credibility) circulate in the media and on the socialization websites of the Internet global network, theories that **grant the global economic crisis genesis**, the often chaotic acceleration of the globalization phenomena, the crazy race for resources (especially energy – oil and gas), the redefinition of spheres of influence, new alliances and groups of forces, the complex issue of demographic growth and the dramatic poverty of a large number of people owed to some occult groups formed from the wide global finance (tycoons from Wall Street and the City, Bilderberg group, Illuminati bankers, IMF and the World Bank board, etc.).

These groups seem to control world governments, inclusively those of great and strong countries (i.e., the USA, the UK, France, Germany, etc.) promoting their own agenda that would lead in a shorter term than was thought toward **the New Global Order**.

Starting from the reality that the world has now seven billion people and from the fact the exhaustible resources are not enough (as some analysts declare - “too many for so little oil”), we are in search of solutions to satisfy and save only the already strong ones by a set of political, economic, demographic, military and other nature measures which will consist in:

- **The dramatic reduction** by rapid and efficient measures of the actual world population (some sources speak about the decrease of population of about 50-90%);
- **The action of devastating strike** over Iran in the last months (protagonists – USA and Israel);
- **The destruction of position and potential** of development of the important currencies (dollar, Euro, Yen, etc.) preparing the introduction of the **Global Unique Currency**;
- **The limitation and then fall** of world’s great states’ power, starting with USA, Russia, Japan, etc.;
- **The challenge of the oil prize** to 150 – 200 USD/barrel;
- **The orchestration by the great banks of the Banking Mortgage Crisis** by the regulation of accommodations taking over without legal empowerment (see the USA case);

- **The promotion of some “laws”** attacking the human being and the latter’s biological genes (see the USA Health Law and not only);
- **The increase on short and medium term** of China’s role as an intermediate stage before the gaining of control by a Global Government:
 - China already owns all Greek harbors;
 - It also owns 90% of all the rare minerals of the Earth – essential components for industrial and weapon technologies;
 - It is already the great extractor of mineral resources at global level (it owns mine exploitations in Australia, Africa, USA, the Middle East, Canada);
 - It occupies the fifth place in the world in the oil production (3.8 million of oil barrels per day) and imports an equal quantity from the global market, mainly from Iran and Saudi Arabia);
- **The orchestration of some strong attacks** on the main religions of the world in order to create the “One World Religion”. The use in this regard of promotion by all mass media means of homosexuality, abortion, euthanasia, pornography, witchcraft and other means to confuse people (the activity of the Global Board of Churches sponsored by Masonic organizations – Rockefeller, Carnegie and Ford Foundations to be studied);
- **The intensification of control over citizens** from all the countries by the introduction of some laws (regulations) as “the Cyber Security Act” and “The Carbon Tax Act” in the USA and “ACTA” in the European Union;
- **The use of public money** to “help” the great banks, although they were the ones who launched the global disaster (knowingly and in conformity to well-defined plans). Only the American tax payers must contribute 3 trillion dollars. The same evil threatens to come upon the tax payers from all the countries seriously affected by the triggered crisis.

The aspects briefly presented below forecast explosive situations for the last years, impossible to control, with hardly anticipated results even by the ones who make decisions with such determination.

That makes the more so explainable the disappointment of the observers from western or other countries and of the analysts that view optimistically the developments of the “Arab Spring” (the fall of three dictators, free elections in Tunisia, Morocco and Egypt) as compared to the real evolutions: the economic crisis continuation, the increase of instability in the North of Africa, the Middle East and the

adjacent areas, the seizing of power of the Islamic and Salafist parties (some declare themselves as moderate, but nobody believes them).

2. The geopolitical and economic importance of states from Northern Africa and the Middle East

Almost all the analysts and observers of the evolutions in the last few years on the international stage agree the states comprised in the “Arab Spring” and also some countries in this vicinity have the main role from many regards:

- **They are situated in the vicinity** of some important commercial routes (the Mediterranean Sea, the Suez Canal, the Red Sea, the Persian Gulf, the Indian Ocean);
- **They have an important demographic impact** that can be taken into account as potential for development and consumption market for the occidental states;
- **They produce and export a large amount of the world’s oil**, still a vital resource for occidental world’s economies and also for the economies of some emergent states (China, India, Brazil, etc.). Thus, in the top of the first twenty producers of oil in the world there are:
 - **2nd place – Saudi Arabia**, producing 8.3 million barrels of oil per day from which exports 7.5 million;
 - **4th place – Iran**, producing 4 million barrels of oil per day and exporting 3 million;
 - **8th place – the United Arab Emirates**, producing 2.4 million barrels per day and exporting 2 million;
 - **9th place – Iraq**, producing 2.4 million barrels per day and exporting 1.9 million;
 - **10th place – Kuwait**, producing 2.4 million barrels of oil per day and exporting 1.4 million;
 - **16th place – Algeria**, producing 1.8 million barrels of oil per day and exporting 1.3 million;
 - **17th place – Libya**, producing 1.7 million barrels of oil per day and exporting 1.2 million.

If we also take into consideration the states situated in the vicinity of the great already mentioned producers (Nigeria – 12th place, Angola – 15th place, Kazakhstan – 18th place and Azerbaijan – 20th place), it clearly results the major dependency of the industrialized countries, great consumers and without own

resources (excepting Great Britain – 19th place and Russia – 1st place), by the black gold production from the areas affected by the revolutionary movements called in the international press “the Arab Spring” or “Islamic Spring”. In fact, we speak about a production of 29.4 million barrels per day and an export of 24.4 million barrels per day.

Daily, **these huge amounts of oil** supplies the industrial machinery, the public consumption and the (hard to neglect) military system’s needs.

That is why the revolutionary riots started in December 2010 and which, under different forms, continue even today must be viewed beyond the real economic, social, political and religious causes and rather as control key for some vital resources for the industrialized world economy and for the great military powers. This fact needs a thorough analysis of the contemporary phenomena and a more realist assessment of the historical hypocrisy of some occidental powers (the claim of democracy’s cause and human rights when, as a matter of fact, the fight is for the privileged access to vital resources).

3. Causes, goals, characteristics and traits of the „Arab Spring”

In the last 30-40 years in the Arab world were accumulated demographic, political, economic, religious and other nature tensions. This situation needed a catalyst, a spark for all to ignite the fire.

Many analysts** consider the main role was played by the disclosure of the corruption of the dictators and autocrats from Northern African and Middle East countries done on Wikileaks site by showing a part of the diplomatic correspondence of the US State Department (the disclosure also regarded other states from Europe and Asia, Romania included).

The aforementioned disclosure stirred the spirits, especially the educated young people having access to the socialization networks (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) which, started to manifest, at first shyly and then more firmly after the Tunisian “spark” in December 2010, when the young Tunisian Mohamed Benaziza set fire to himself in the small town of Sidi Bouzid.

Recent analyses showed that among the **main causes** that initiated the “Arab Spring” riots were:

- **The demographic developments** during the last 30-40 years that ended in the growth of the young population without social and economic prospects;
- **The existence of some dictatorial or authoritarian regimes** perpetuated in force on clan and clientele principles that resisted with the same main characters for 30-40 years;

** See the material posted on different Internet sites by using Google search and the “Arab Spring” topic.

- **The generalized corruption** of the government and local authorities;
- **The massive violation and without any abstention** of the fundamental human rights;
- The galloping inflation and the increase of prices for the basic foodstuffs;
- The affirmation of “kleptocracy” (kleptomania) as state policy;
- The religious and clan sectarianism;
- The lack of jobs, the unemployment rate affecting 20-30% of the population able to work in economic activities.

Taking into account the above presented reasons, most of the demonstrators claimed - through more or less violent forms - the following:

- The introduction of some democratic regimes;
- The respect of fundamental human rights;
- Free and fair elections, inclusively by accepting women to vote (in the countries where this thing has not happened yet);
- The resignation of the autocrats and their allies.

The means to reach the already presented **goals** embraced different forms of manifestation, from civil war (Libya) to more or less peaceful demonstrations:

- Civilian disobedience through the disrespect of laws and rules imposed by the authorities;

- Civilian resistance by diverse forms;
- Attacks on some state institutions;
- Huge demonstrations with the participation of tens of thousands of people;
- Intensification of **online** activism, especially of teenagers;
- Violent armed rebellions with casualties and injured people;
- Reach of revolution stage, especially in Libya, Egypt, Syria;
- Other actions (self-burning, destructions, urban war).

Until now (February 2012), the consequences of the revolutionary movements have been important at both regional and global level:

- Presidents and prime-ministers went off from power;
- The demonstrators imposed some economic concessions;
- The political map of Northern Africa and the Middle East was redesigned;
- They set the conditions for access by democratic means (by free elections) of some moderate or radical Islamic parties;
- The movement has not finished yet; there are ongoing actions also in other states (mainly in Syria).

Based on some analyses made by experts in global and regional issues we can state that:

- **It increases the danger of some** Islamic radical parties, especially in the Palestinian Territories, Egypt, Yemen, Tunisia and Morocco;
- **The conditions for religious intolerance** (see the violent harassment of the Copt Christians in Egypt);

- **The great powers** and other regional actors try new geopolitical and geo-strategic arrangements in order to offer advantages (i.e., the control of commercial ways, access to resources – especially oil and gas) and the use of the potential of some important markets for industrial products' sales.

As a final conclusion, we believe that the last year's movements will have main regional and global effects, with explosive potential, particularly as regards the situation in Iran and Syria. The international community, the public opinion should take stands to avoid a scenario in the near future that can lead to a regional or even global scale war.



BIBLIOGRAPHY (SOURCES)

Materials posted on Internet sites, accessible with “Google search” for the “Arab Spring” topic (there are a few hundreds).

The communiques of press agents and media networks: CNN, BBC, RFI, the Guardian, Fox News, AFP, Reuters, Wikipedia.

The local press, starting from December 2010, until February 2012.

<http://us.mg6.mail.yahoo.com/dc/launch?>

<http://www.contributrors.ro/sinteze/primavara-islamică/>

