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**REGIONAL SECURITY IN THE WESTERN  
BALKANS (THE STRATEGIC ROLE OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS – UN,  
NATO, EU, OSCE, CoE, RCC, SEECP, SECI),**

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## FIGURE 2 THE LESSONS OF HISTORY 1

- HISTORY HAS DEMONSTRATED THAT INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL NORMS CAN HAVE A CRUCIAL ROLE IN STRENGTHENING STATE INSTITUTIONS, PROMOTING DEMOCRACY AND REGIONAL STABILITY.

THE LACK OF STRONG INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS BETWEEN THE TWO WORLD WARS BROUGHT ABOUT THE COLLAPSE OF THE WORLD ORDER AND REGIONAL EUROPEAN STABILITY.

## **THE LESSONS OF HISTORY 2**

In the second part of the last century a variety of regional institutions and organizations -from EU, NATO, to the Council of Europe and the OSCE - has helped the consolidation of democratic norms and institutions within states in the European continent and in promoting regional stability.

## FIGURE 4

# LESSONS FOR FUTURE

- AS LONG AS ALL THE COUNTRIES IN THE SOUTH-EAST EUROPE, INCLUDING THE WESTERN BALKANS, DO NOT JOIN THE EU AND NATO (AT LEAST THE PFP), DEMOCRACY AND STABILITY IN EUROPE ARE NOT COMPLETELY WON.

FOR THIS REASON IT IS CRUCIAL TO KEEP OPEN THE EUROPEAN AND THE EU AND NATO PERSPECTIVE FOR THE COUNTRIES OF THIS REGION.

# What has been the role that international institutions in WB? Stability 1

- promotion of stability and democracy.
- First, stability. International organizations - the UN, NATO, the EU and the OSCE - were tasked to maintain stability in a war-torn region.
- NATO had a crucial and prevailing role in conflict resolution and peace enforcement in the first years after conflict and still maintains a pivotal role in Kosovo.

# What has been the role that international institutions in WB? Stability 2

- In Bosnia, the EU has progressively taken over, as it did in Macedonia.
- There are no fast rules or templates about the duration of the presence of international troops in post-conflict areas or the mix of international institutions needed to preserve peace.

# What has been the role that international institutions in WB? Stability 3

- Institutions such as the OSCE and the Council of Europe have played a central role in Serbia and Montenegro and in the countries of the region in reforming the judiciary by helping local governments in drafting new codes and laws, by training judges and prosecutors, by monitoring the respects of procedures (thanks to their presence on the ground).
- The same has happened with the reform of police where the OSCE has invested a great amount of resources in training activities and in developing, together with the EU, a modern concept of borders management.

# What has been the role that international institutions in WB? Stability 4

- international organizations have played an important role also in helping the states in the region to create an adequate institutional capacity (ad hoc legislation, special courts, awareness campaigns) in order to be able to handle war crimes through their own judiciaries.
- That kind of assistance needs to continue also after the end of the activities of the ICTY because there will remain numerous cases to be tried by domestic courts.
- An entire separate chapter could be written when it comes to the OSCE and other organizations' role in combating human trafficking.



# What has been the role that international institutions in WB? Democracy 1

- The Balkan tragedy in the 90s' was largely the consequence of lack of democracy in the area of former Yugoslavia.
- Human freedoms, minority rights, non-discrimination, pluralism, accountability, are the basic principles of any liberal democracy in Europe and in the Western world.
- The EU, the Council of Europe and the OSCE have invested a lot of resources in order to promote programs and activities to uphold those principles.

# What has been the role that international institutions in WB? Democracy 2

- In Serbia and Montenegro, for instance, in the area of the freedom of press, the Council of Europe and the OSCE have assisted the local authorities in amending their criminal codes in order to decriminalize libel and insult and in adopting and implementing fresh legislation on the citizens' right to free access to information.
- Likewise, these two organizations have assisted local authorities in drafting the new legislation for the establishment of the Office of Ombudsman.
- A crucial area of activity is the protection of minorities. In South Serbia, the OSCE, together with the EU (EAR) and UNDP.

# 16 SEE + 1 China Initiative



# Three Seas Initiative

## Three Seas Initiative

(TSI)

■ *Connecting 12 Countries & 3 Seas*

- ▶ Austria
- ▶ Bulgaria
- ▶ Croatia
- ▶ Czech Republic
- ▶ Estonia
- ▶ Hungary
- ▶ Latvia
- ▶ Lithuania
- ▶ Poland
- ▶ Romania
- ▶ Slovakia
- ▶ Slovenia

Adriatic Sea - Baltic Sea - Black Sea



## Three Seas Key Projects

**THE INITIATIVE PROVIDED A BASE FOR STRATEGICALLY IMPORTANT INFRASTRUCTURAL PROJECTS, TWO OF WHICH STAND PROMINENTLY SO FAR ARE THE NORTH-SOUTH HIGHWAY AND THE LNG PROJECTS:**

**1.) THE NORTH-SOUTH HIGHWAY PROJECT IS PART OF THE THREE SEAS INITIATIVE. IT WILL CONNECT LITHUANIA, POLAND, SLOVAKIA, HUNGARY, ROMANIA, BULGARIA AND GREECE. THE PROPOSED ROUTE WILL CONNECT KLAIPEDA, WHICH IS AN IMPORTANT SEAPORT OF LITHUANIA, LOCATED ON THE COAST OF BALTIC SEA, TO THESSALONIKI, ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT TRADE HUBS IN SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE. IT WILL ALSO HELP BOOST TRADES WITH POLAND BY PROVIDING EASTERN POLAND WITH A NORTH-SOUTH ROUTE TO CONNECT WITH CENTRAL EUROPE.**

**2.) POLAND AND CROATIA TOOK THE INITIATIVE OF BUILDING LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS (LNG) TERMINALS IN THE BALTIC SEA TO FULFILL GAS REQUIREMENTS OF THE MEMBER COUNTRIES. POLAND HAS COMPLETED ITS LNG TERMINAL ALREADY, WHILE CROATIA IS EXPECTED TO COMPLETE ITS TERMINAL BY 2019. THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PIPELINE FOR LNG IS ALSO PART OF THE PROJECT.**