

IN LIEU OF FOREWORD

ZDZISŁAWA DACKO-PIKIEWICZ

What is characteristic of the early twenty-first century and presently for its second decade is probably the dynamics of transformation of socio-economic structure, both in its regional and global scope. From the perspective of the upcoming quarter of the twenty-first century it might be stated that the pace of these change has been initiated by the very end of the twentieth century, including all spheres of human life. However, as Marek Walancik and Marek Chmiel write: "The problem of ensuring security for individuals, social groups, communities, organizational units is actually what we inherited from the twentieth century and it is one of the basic objectives of a democratic state". Moreover, 9/11 attacks changed our perspective on the whole perception of security. The reconstruction process of the awareness of security perception has already begun by the end of the twentieth century. The criticism of narrow and ethnocentric approach to the notion of security, firstly perceived through the prism of military threat in the national dimension, though spreading towards international one, has began after the collapse of the Eastern Bloc States¹. As John Paul II wrote the twentieth century was "in some sense an audience of the accumulation of historical processes along with ideological processes, which headed towards the big "explosion" of evil, but also was the scene of their overcoming"². With respect to the issue of ensuring security and taking into consideration a duty of a chronicler it is worth recalling both those events that threatened individuals, but also those associated with their development. The first category of events includes: totalitarian systems, a revolution, two world wars, atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the war in Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Balkans and Chechnya and the beginnings of AIDS epidemics. While, the second category includes: the first flight by plane, the theory of relativity, the vaccine against tuberculosis, penicillin as well as the jet engine, transistor, DNA, laser, flight into space, the first moon landing along with the rise of Solidarity in Poland, disintegration of the Eastern Bloc States, fall of the Ber-

¹ M. Walancik, M. Chmiel, (2014) *Security as a goal of the state existence – conditions and contexts based on the case of Poland*, (in:) *Forum Scientiae Oeconomia Volume 2* (2014), No. 2 Security management, p. 5 i 6.

² *Jan Paweł II, Pamięć i Tożsamość*, Wydawnictwo Znak, Kraków 2005, s. 11.

lin Wall, reunification of Germany, disintegration of the Soviet Union, invention of microwave, the Internet, CD, a personal computer and a space shuttle. Undoubtedly, the twentieth century, the age of two world wars, revolutions, totalitarian regimes, the conquest of space, has given the foundations and started the era of modern terrorism. The terrorist attack, actually a series of coordinated terrorist attacks on the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center, the seat of Pentagon and the fourth attack (failed one) probably aimed at the White House or the Capitol, was launched on Tuesday, September 11, 2001 in the morning hours in the United States. The attacks were launched with the use of four hijacked planes. It might be stated that the 9/11 attacks changed the perception of the notion of contemporary security with a particular attention paid to the issue of terrorist activities. Another series of „terrorist attacks”, which took place on 12 October 2002 in Kuta resort, on the Indonesian island of Bali, as well as other attacks taking place on 11 March 2004 in Madrid, on 7 July 2005 in London and a whole series of terrorist attacks in Russia since 2000 (on 8 August 2000 in the Moscow metro, on 23 October 2002 in Dubrovka Theater in Moscow, on 1 September 2004 in the school in Beslan and the one taking place on 17 August 2009 in internal-affairs office in Nazran with many other examples) along with attacks taking place on 15 April 2013, during the Boston Marathon, have drawn attention of the whole world and indicated that security should be viewed from different perspectives”³. Terrorist attacks such as those launched on the World Trade Center, Moscow Theater in Dubrovka, a school in Beslan as well as cruel executions carried out by militants from the Islamic State, published on the Internet, suggest the formation of the new international terrorism and its new members, who change under the influence of development of civilization. The spilled wave of modern terrorism, practically covering the whole world, has caused that the methods of the fight against terrorism have also been changed. Nowadays, the fight against international terrorism has become the domain of Special Forces of individual countries and a whole range of operations of alliances and coalitions, formed due to specific and military actions, have something more than a symbolic meaning. What is more, the fight against terrorism also consists in building international support groups, taking part in discussions organized during many symposia, congresses and international conferences as well as publications within international organizations of the European Union, Interpol, Europol, UN Agencies, NATO and OSCE. In the light of the above, I strongly urge the international community to actively participate in such events and I pay special attention to the readers of the proposed publication.

Zdzisława Dacko-Pikiewicz

Dąbrowa Górnicza, 12 September, 2014

³ M. Walancik, M. Chmiel, (2014) *Security as a goal of the state existence – conditions and contexts based on the case of Poland*, (in:) *Forum Scientiae Oeconomia Volume 2* (2014), No. 2 Security management, p. 6.