

ROMANIA AND RUSSIA AFTER 20 YEARS PERCEPTIONS, REALITIES, PERSPECTIVES

The studies following this heading were elaborated some time before the emergence of the current crisis in Ukraine and in the relationship between NATO – EU and the Russian Federation on the issue of Crimea. The developments in the EU's Eastern Partnership concerning Ukraine, the political tensions that they have generated in the Ukrainian society and Russia's reaction in Crimea radically changed the status quo in international relations and generated interrogations about the conditions of the "peace treaty" set at the end of Cold War and the paradigm that will be followed henceforth in the relation between the two great poles of international power. These concern to an overwhelming extent Romania, not only in its membership of the EU and NATO, but also because of the proximity of the crisis, influencing the debates that will reflect further the practical developments.

These studies, published in Romanian in an extensive volume, subsume the most important lines of research related to the major interest of study on the topic, namely: the implications of economic, political and geopolitical trends of Russian Federation on its strategic partnerships – mainly reflected in the evolution of the Community Independent States, the Russian position towards the close proximity (understood as a sphere of privileged interests), in its report to the Eastern Partnership and in the initiation of the Eurasian Union project. The relations between Romania and the Russian Federation have been analyzed within the context of adoption of the Russian conception of multi-polar world and multilateralism, regarding as well the implications of this consolidated position for the relationship of Russia with the European Union and NATO, with Central and South-Eastern European states, members of EU and NATO, relevant for the perspective of solving the "frozen conflicts". In this last regard, the "Bessarabia factor" and the controversial policy of Russia in the Transnistrian conflict, as well as the interest of the Russian Federation for the geographical position of the Republic of Moldova and, consequently, for an "Eurasian" orientation of its domestic and foreign policy have been identified as causes of the current "unfriendly" policy between Romania and Russia.*

The concern for the Romanian – Russian relations after two decades since the radical change in their destiny and in the destiny of millions of people to whom they give national and citizenship identity must be considered the evidence of the renewed preoccupation for assuming the inter-academic dialogue with regards to these spaces, stimulating future debates.

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* *România și Rusia după 20 de ani: percepții, realități, perspective*, coordonatori Dan Dungaciu și Gabriela Tănăsescu, București, Editura Institutului de Științe Politice și Relații Internaționale, 2013.
