

**VI International Student Conference of Borjan Tanevski Memorial Fund
in cooperation with Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung**

**Identifying common Balkan concerns in an era of
global crisis**

**- On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin wall:
lessons for the Balkans -**



16 May 2009

Skopje, Macedonia

“Common Balkan Concerns at a Time of Global Crisis”

**Essay Competition
for Borjan Tanevski
Scholarship 2009**



Borjan Tanevski Scholarship 2.500€

Essay Competition:

“Common Balkan Concerns at a Time of Global Crisis”

Competition:

The Borjan Tanevski Scholar at ACT will be named again in 2009, on the basis of an essay competition.

The scholarship carries an award of 2500 € from the Borjan Tanevski Memorial Fund, to be used for ACT fees.

The Borjan Tanevski Scholar will be honored at the 2009 Commencement ceremony. The 2009 scholar and authors of selected essays will be invited to present at an international student conference in Skopje, in May 2009.

Essay:

2500 words (max.) on: *“Common Balkan Concerns at a Time of Global Crisis” [identify and defend such concerns – or that there are none]*

Timeline:

11.03.2009	Announcement of essay subject
06.04.2009	Deadline for submissions (15:00) 5 anonymous copies to Elena Charalambidis

Candidates:

Open to all current regular undergraduate ACT students (and accepted applicants) who have an overall GPA of at least 3.0 (or no GPA yet).

Jury:

The winner is decided by a jury of five academics (Profs. Kourkouvelis, Müller, Wisner from ACT, Prof. Malevska, Skopje/Tetovo and Prof. Zaikos, Ioannina), following anonymous reviewing and an interview with the three best candidates.

Further information:

Dr. Vincent C. Müller, NB Office 3, vmueller@act.edu, phone: 398-211

Dr. David Wisner, NB Office 1, drd@act.edu

For further details see the regulations, NB Faculty Offices notice-board.)

The Borjan Tanevski Memorial Fund

Borjan Tanevski graduated from ACT in 2002, was diagnosed with a rare form of bone cancer soon after and passed away on the 22nd of March 2003. Borjan was the model of a student of our college and the Fund is established in his memory, to provide scholarships at ACT and to support his ideas of peace and cooperation in South-East Europe.

Information about the Fund: <http://www.borjan.net>

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**Identifying common Balkan concerns in an era
of global crisis**

**- On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin
wall: lessons for the Balkans -**

**16 May 2009
Skopje, Macedonia**

Organisation and Concept:

Henri Bohnet

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

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Borjan Tanevski Memorial Fund

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Prof. Vincent Müller

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Location:

FON University

Vojvodina bb

MK-1000 Skopje

Working language:

English

Saturday, 16 May 2009

From 9:30

Registration of the participants

10:00

Official opening of the conference

Josif Tanevski

Borjan Tanevski Memorial Fund, Skopje

Prof. Vincent Müller

American College of Thessaloniki, Greece

Prof. Dr. Aleksandar Nikolovski

Rector of FON University

10:15-10:45

The 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin wall: are there lessons for the Balkans?

Introduction and moderation: **Henri Bohnet**, Official Representative of Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, Skopje

Ulrike Maria Knotz

Ambassador of Federal Republic of Germany in Republic of Macedonia

Identifying common Balkan concerns in an era of global crisis

Ivica Bocevski

Deputy prime minister for European Affairs
Secretariat for European Affairs of Republic of Macedonia

Alexandra Papadopoulou

Head of Liaison office of Greece in Skopje

Identifying common Balkan concerns in an era of global crisis

10:45 – 12:00

Presentation by the Greek University students

Introduction and Moderation: **Prof. Vincent Müller**, American
College of Thessaloniki, Greece

12:00 – 13:00 **Lunch Buffet**

13:00 – 14:30 Students work in groups on the topic:

**20 years after the fall of the Berlin wall: lessons for the Balkans
and/or**

Identifying common Balkan concerns in an era of global crisis

Introduction: **Prof. Blagoja Spirkoski**, FON University

Rudi Lazarevski,RSBConsulting-Skopje,former
Senior Regional Partner of PricewaterhouseCoopers

Moderation of the working groups

Aleksandar Stojkov
(Assistant professor)
University "Ss. Cyril and Methodius"

Prof. Dr. Ali Pajaziti
SEE University

Arta Bilalli
(Assistant professor)
Tetovo State University

Zdravko Savevski
(Assistant professor)
Fon University - Skopje

14:30 – 15:00 Coffee break

15:00 – 15:30

Presentation of the results of the working groups

15.30 – 16.30

Evaluation and conclusions:

Prof. Lagani Irini

University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki

Prof. Malevska

SEE University

Prof. Dimitar Mirčev

Dean of political science faculty

FON University

16.30

End of program

Josif Tanevski

Borjan Tanevski Memorial Fund, Skopje

Prof. Vincent Müller

American College of Thessaloniki, Greece

List of Participants			
Borjan Tanveski Memorial Fund - VI International Student Conference			
No.	Name	Surname	Organization/University
1	Josif	Tanevski	President of Borjan Tanevski Memorial Fund
2	Henry	Bohnet	Project Manager at KAS
3	Arben	Xhelili	Projectkoordinator KAS
4	Prof. Vincent C.	Mueller	Professor at ACT, Thessaloniki
5	Prof. David	Wisner	Professor at ACT, Thessaloniki
6	Prof. Irini	Lagani	UM, Thessaloniki
7	Prof. d-r Aleksandar	Nikolovski	Rector of FON University, Skopje
8	Ivica	Bocevski	Deputy prime minister for EU Affairs
9	Ulrike Maria	Knotz	Ambassador of Fed. Rep. of Germany in Rep. of Macedonia
10	Alexandra	Papadopoulou	Head of Liason Office of Greece in Skopje
11	Prof. Dimitar	Mircev	FON University, Skopje
12	Prof. Blagoja	Spiroski	FON University, Skopje
13	Prof. Mirjana	Maleska	SEE University
14	Rudi	Lazarevski	RSBConsulting - Skopje
15	Prof. d-r Ali	Pajaziti	South-Eastern Europe University (SEE), Tetovo
16	Arta	Billali	Tetovo State University
17	Zdravko	Savevski	FON University, Skopje
18	Jovanco	Utkovski	SEE
19	Angella	Temelkov	SEE
20	Bojan	Andonov	SEE
21	Keti	Stojanovska	SEE
22	Eleonora	Adroviq	SEE
23	Arbresha	Hazari	SEE
24	Lindita	Aliti	SEE
25	Mimoza	Qamili	SEE
26	Pranvera	Imeri	SEE
27	Astrit	Rexhepi	SEE
28	Shpetim	Aliu	SEE
29	Denis	Memedi	SEE

30	Ertan	Idrizi	SEE
30	Blerim	Avdia	SEE
32	Armend	Luta	SEE
33	Hadie	Rustemi	SEE
34	Gjyltene	Ademi	SEE
35	Fatime	Demiri	SEE
36	Besnik	Osmani	SEE
37	Faton	Memeti	SEE
38	Aferdita	Berzati	SEE
39	Ali	Pajaziti	Professor SEE
40	Flaka	Pollozhani	State University Tetovo
41	Fisnike	Bekteshi	State University Tetovo
42	Shefki	Jashari	State University Tetovo
43	Ardita	Bilalli	State University Tetovo
44	Vebie	Kadri	State University Tetovo
45	Suad	Shaquiri	State University Tetovo
46	Ardian	Alla	State University Tetovo
47	Bujar	Zulfiu	State University Tetovo
48	Faruk	Raimi	State University Tetovo
49	Stuhi	Mehmeti	State University Tetovo
50	Adelina	Morina	State University Tetovo
51	Vaxhid	Imeri	State University Tetovo
52	Jehona	Bilalli	State University Tetovo
53	Luiza	Kaba	State University Tetovo
54	Leonora	Derveni	University of Macedonia (UM), Thessaloniki
55	Christina V.	Kapodistria	UM, Thessaloniki
56	Derja	Kallontzou	UM, Thessaloniki
57	Veronica	Kalaitzi	UM, Thessaloniki
58	Vasilika-Maria	Papadopoulou-Tsolepidou	UM, Thessaloniki
59	Magdalini	Papapetrou	UM, Thessaloniki
60	Jelena	Vujanovic	UM, Thessaloniki
61	Olga	Karageourgiou	UM, Thessaloniki

62	Anita	Pistari	UM, Thessaloniki
63	Karina	Toneva	Anatolia College Thessaloniki (ACT)
64	Igor	Zlatojev	ACT, Thessaloniki
65	Nertila	Bardhi	ACT, Thessaloniki
66	Jolda	Druga	ACT, Thessaloniki
67	Plamen	Panov	ACT, Thessaloniki
68	Daphni	Druga	ACT, Thessaloniki
69	Anastasia	Papantoniou	University of Florina
70	Elisabeth	Fakunu	University of Florina
71	Eleni	Delilas	University of Florina
72	Aleksandra	Protoduari	University of Florina
73	Doc. d-r Baskim	Selmani	FON University, Skopje
74	Andreja	Bogdanovski	FON University, Skopje
75	Martin	Okolik	FON University, Skopje
76	Monika	Levkoska	FON University, Skopje
77	Elena	Ancevska	FON University, Skopje
78	Goran	Andonovski	FON University, Skopje
79	Ana	Kaevska	FON University, Skopje
80	Dane	Josifovski	FON University, Skopje
81	Eleonora	Todorovska	FON University, Skopje
82	Daniel	Josifovski	FON University, Skopje
83	Elena	Mufasa	FON University, Skopje
84	Daniela	Kojcinovska	FON University, Skopje
85	Adem	Erhan	FON University, Skopje
86	Luizim	Selami	FON University, Skopje
87	Valentina	Simonova	FON University, Skopje
88	Dimce	Bogoevski	FON University, Skopje
89	Darko	Peev	FON University, Skopje
90	Goran	Mladenovski	FON University, Skopje
91	Irena	Mladenovska	FON University, Skopje
92	Ivan	Pavlovski	FON University, Skopje
93	Biljana	Kolevska	FON University, Skopje

94	Irena	Dimitrova	FON University, Skopje
95	Dejan	Krsteski	FON University, Skopje
96	Dijana	Mitevska	FON University, Skopje
97	Daniela	Deleva	FON University, Skopje
98	Ana	Petkovska	FON University, Skopje
99	Ivona	Stefanovska	FON University, Skopje
100	Nikolce	Jovceski	FON University, Skopje
101	Bojana	Naumovska	University "Ss. Cyril & Methodius", Skopje
102	Dragana	Ruseska	University "Ss. Cyril & Methodius", Skopje
103	Andrijana	Jovanovska	University "Ss. Cyril & Methodius", Skopje
104	Natalija	Krstova	University "Ss. Cyril & Methodius", Skopje
105	Marija	Antevska	University "Ss. Cyril & Methodius", Skopje
106	Tanja	Paneva	University "Ss. Cyril & Methodius", Skopje
107	Jasmina	Josifovska	University "Ss. Cyril & Methodius", Skopje
108	Ilija	Kiroski	University "Ss. Cyril & Methodius", Skopje
109	Aleksandar	Stojkov	Assistant Professor "Ss. Cyril & Methodius", Skopje

Welcome message from the Memorial Fund “Borjan Tanevski”

My name is Aleksandra P. Gorin and I am Secretary of the BTMF in Skopje. I address you on behalf of Mr. Tanevski. He is not able to participate on this Conference due to health reasons. Let me read his message:

Dear excellences, dear professors, dear students and dear guests,

First let me express our pleasure to welcome the Head of the operations sections of the European Commission in Skopje, Mr. Dieter Thiel, First Secretary in the German Embassy in Skopje, Mrs. Sonja Bohnet and the representative from the Greek Embassy in Skopje, Mrs. Eleni Petroula.

Our warm welcome to the students from Greece and different Universities from the Republic of Macedonia: FON, New York College, SEE, “Ss. Cyril and Methodius” and Tetovo State University. Also, we are very happy to welcome professor Irini Lagani together with professor Vincent Mueller from Greece and the professors and experts who will participate in the program of the Conference.

Today we have a very interesting topic: “The 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin wall: are there lessons for the Balkans”. This is a subject that these days is the most actual in Europe. It is an example of the mistake in the history but also a new light for the future of Europe – United Europe.

Our goal is to give the students the opportunity to talk and debate freely about various topics with their professors and at the same time to give them the possibility to gain new friendships, better understanding and more tolerance between them.

Let me express our gratitude to the Konrad Adenauer Foundation for their generous, permanent support, to Mr. Henry Bohnet, who with his energy, knowledge and good will is helping our country in its path to Europe and Mr. Arben Xhelili for organization of this Conference. Also, our thanks to FON University for providing their nice premises for this Conference.

I wish all of you a successful experience.

Skopje, November 14, 2009

Josif Tanevski

Prof.Dr Maria Zarezankova-Potevska
FON University
Skopje

VI International Student Conference of Borjan Tanevski' Memorial Fund in
cooperation with Konrad Adenauer-Stiftung:

**IDENTIFYING COMMON BALKAN CONCERNS IN AN ERA OF GLOBAL
CRYSIS**

Skopje, 16 May 2009, FON University

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Gests and Hosts,
Dear Students and Colleges,
You're Excellency,

I would like to thank to the organizers that give me opportunity to participate on this Conference devoted to the global economic crisis and to share with the students from here and from the Republic of Greece our common Balkans concerns for the future.

I am very proud to be a part of the Conference related to the young people who should be prepared for the challenges of the global economic and financial crisis for finding solution, specially because of the Borjan Tanevski Memorial Fund involvement.

I had opportunity personally to know young enthusiast and excellent young person Mr. Borjan Tanevski, who has defended the idea of common action in the world for better life of the people. He was open mind, with sense of big humanity, knowledge and good heart. Today we are gathered by his vision of human development and growth.

Today the world is facing with the biggest economic and financial crisis after the crisis from 1929 that were not recognized before, when the governments changed their economic policies towards some intervention and measures for regulation of the market and economic activities. After that economic crisis, the world was not the same. Open market economy, as an accepted concept of economic system, was transformed slowly by social market economy, particularly in countries in EU.

USA has accepted the system of open market economy without any protection and intervention in the economy, until nowadays appeared economic crisis which provoked many negative impacts on economic and social life. Solution of the negative process in production, employment, stock exchange, export-import activities, US authority has seen in launching a lot of financial

measures for support the enterprises and to support the entrepreneurship. Billions of dollars are put on the accounts of the banks from the American authorities for simple reason: to accelerate the economic growth and to raise the level of economic activities in the country from the bottom. Indirectly it was financial support of the enterprises to raise the production and to start new investment cycle.

The G20, the famous group of most developed countries in the world, agrees to channel \$1.1 trillion (€832bn) into the IMF and other institutions and to tighten rules on financial markets. The agreement was welcomed by the EU, which has led efforts to crack down on loose banking practices that caused the financial crisis.

The crash of the financial system in USA in 2008, in globalization process, spreads the negative impacts in other countries in the world and consequences are well known: reduction of the production, reduced demand of goods and services, the same with offers and all basic economic indicators are reduced and negative. Many workers lost their jobs, industry is in collapse, (for example automotive industry), growth rate of GDP is down.

Economic crisis stopped economic growth, reduced the production, employment and export activities in all countries. The situation is worst in the less developed countries, like the Republic of Macedonia, where the latest data show negative tendencies:

The real GDP growth rate in 2007 in relation with 2006 is 5,9%, last year was 5%, but today is reduced on 1% (was planed 5% growth rate). The prognosis of IMF, made some days ago, is reducing on minus 2%, for 2009, which is very pessimistic. More than 25.000 workers in textile industry, are out of the factories, because of cancelling the agreement with foreign partners, consequently of the reduced demand on the commodity markets. The price of the capital is raising and enterprises have no access to the favorable credits and loans. The Central bank keeps the rigid monetary policy in purpose to keep the domestic currency stable. Trade balance deficit is increased and foreign currency reserves are reduced. Generally, economic recession is on high level. We still can not see the end of negative tendency in the financial and economic sphere.

The world economic and financial crisis evidently shows that some fundamental changes in economic and financial world system should be made as well as in the social sector. Many debates on these issues are initiated in last months in the world. It is really time to make some steps towards reorganizing financial world system, to more regulated market, in purpose to reach society of welfare for all citizens.

The neo-liberal theories and tendencies of the marketplace as a unique allocator of production factors - imposed by the global financial institutions like IMF, WB and the US, now are in serious crisis. In the last decades they completely rejected the Neo-Keynesian concepts of the necessity of state regulations of the national economies, launched after the big economic crisis in

1929-1933. World famous economists and experts such as H. Stiglic, H. Sax, G.Kolodko, among others, rightly criticize the open market fetishism and the globalization, monetarism, and liberalization for liberalization's sake. It is serious question for discussion, theoretical and practical aspects. Now, I think, it is actual again.

What is the best for the future economic and social life in the world?

The economic crisis has the impact to the economies in all countries in the world. The globalization process connects all economies in the world which result in the crisis influence in developed and not developed countries equally.

The Balkans countries are faced with the problems of consequences of economic and financial crisis either.

Dear ladies and gentlemen, dear students and colleges,

The Berlin wall is fallen, but now the new threats are appeared, they are: unemployment, distortion of the global financial system, necessity of the new model of economic system, new allocation of the capital, more social elements in the government policies, different measures for support individual visions in purpose of raising the entrepreneurial spirit of the young population and build society of welfare and justice.

The economic crisis is a big threat for survival of many people, especially the poorest ones in not developed countries.

For that reason, we are witnesses of the fast intervention of the governments especially in the banking system, which should support business sector development and economic growth.

EU countries governments, faced with negative tendencies in the economic and financial field, including social life, overtook many different measures and made some new decisions in purpose to save the jobs of their workers.

In these circumstances, the Balkans region is faced with all negative performances in the economy, collapse of production, job reduction, lack of capital, more saving in the budget expenditures and export reduced.

The most actual question now is how to start a new business cycle. All Balkans countries are faced with necessity of urgent government new policies with financial support of the business sector and entrepreneurial development. For our neighbor countries is useful to continue with business networking, tourism activities, strategic alliances and business cooperation.

For the Republic of Macedonia, for example, most important trade partners are Republic of Serbia, Germany, Republic of Greece, Italy and Russia (49.3% from the total commodity international trade exchange).

In the 2007, the most important trade partners for us, are the EU countries 27(65.2%) and the West Balkan countries (29.4%), and in the import the most important trade partners are the EU countries 27(49.7%) and the Developing countries (30.7%).

The Republic of Macedonia imports mainly the crude petroleum oils, electricity, motor vehicles and exports ferronickel, iron and steel products and clothes. There are opportunities to raise the export of wine, manufactory products, as well as tourism arrangements, agribusiness products. Trade balance deficit is still on the high level (-1 627 mil. \$ and GDP per capita of 3.706 US \$ in 2007. In 2009, situation is worst, lack of credits for business activities, low investment level.

I believe that the actual question is what should be done for start new productive cycle in our economy? In any case, difficult issue, but plenty of opportunities and chances for the new economic policy with accent of the entrepreneurship development and support of innovation and ideas of young educated people. Open borders, partnership support and business networking should be priority in economic policy and strategy in purpose of economic prosperity and exit of the economic and financial crisis.

New generation of people, with new knowledge and skills, should have more influence in the worlds' institution policy.

Young generation should be more active to make the world better place for living.

Speech of Mr. Rudi Lazarevski, RSB Consulting Skopje, former Senior Regional partner of PriceWaterhouseCoopers

Dear students,

Let me give you some key points related to your work-shop. I understood that most of you, are not studying economy. That's why let me present these key points on a more relaxed way.

1. Think global, act local

This expression is not very much connected with this theme, but means a lot from practical point of view. Global crisis is acting very locally. The impact of the crisis is different from country to country, because each country has specific structure of the economy, means different problems. Small countries has different problems than big- decision making countries. Let me give you some examples.

-UK is a country of financial services-banking sector is several times bigger than capacity of the country to absorb that volume of money, which is actually the only banking product. That is why UK banking sector was exporting money as product, mostly in US, last years.

-Germany as world second economic giant in export in the world has different problems. As heavy exporter of automobile and other heavy industries, Germany started to loose largest markets in the world, such as China, US, Russia. At the same time, Germany has huge loan exposure to these markets, especially Russia and Asian's tigers.

Austria used to have huge expansion in CEE last ten years especially in banking sector. At this stage, Austria banking sector has at least 50% of its balance sheet abroad, invested in various CEE banks. It is a nightmare to consolidate this Balance Sheet these days.

Asian tigers mostly exporting entertainment "gadget and gismo" products, re-facing closed collapsed markets.

2. WHAT ARE THE COMMON ISSUES ?

Common issues are actually common concerns of the world, as result of domino effect. I believe that there are no unique solutions. Solutions are on the ground in each country. G-20 summit in London is excellent step forward for re-organizing world economy. But, miracles should not be expected, because against common global economic crisis are different and specific problems "on the ground" in each country.

3. BALKAN COUNTRIES

The main topic of this session is common Balkan concerns. Firstly, what are common characteristics of Balkan States?

Balkan states are small states/markets, more emergency markets, than emerging markets with permanent requirement of funding as countries. Cash flow problems, even without this global crisis. Weak hard currency reserves, large public administration, very high actual unemployment rate, against statistical rate, more political than economic environment.

Common concerns of these small Balkan countries are arising from their common characteristics mentioned above. Solutions for these countries are “on the ground” in each country normally, supported by internationally funded institutions, such as IMF, WB. In real life, G-20 summit for small Balkan countries is more “Red Carpet” than solution. For example, GDP of Macedonia is around 5-6 billion US dollars, comparing with 26 billion pounds loss of Royal Bank of Scotland for 2008. G-20 is dealing and finding solutions for this type of losses and similar ones around the Globe, not for local structural problems of the economy.

Small Balkan countries, with IFI's support, should find solutions “on the ground”.

3.SWOT ANALYSS

There is one very good analytical tool in economy and very practical at the same moment. It is the so called SWOT analysis. This tool says:

- What are your **S**trength as a small country?
- What are your **W**eaknesses as a small country?
- What are your **O**pportunities as a small country?
- What are the **T**hreats as a small country?

Simple example, threats for Germany at the moment are multi billion dollars closed markets around the world.

For small Balkan country this Threats could be Opportunity. Increasing your own export for couple of hundreds of millions dollars, for example in EU, no one will noticed that. That is the game of “big numbers, small numbers”. Few hundreds of million dollars export in EU is a “peanuts” for that market.

Solutions for small Balkan countries are mostly “on the ground”. That is why the expression “Thing Global Act Local” could be very easy re-set to: “Learn, Watch and Listen Globally, than Act immediately Locally”.

Normally, if there is an interest by local politicians, as key decision making runners in small Balkan countries.

Rudi Lazarevski
Financial Consultant



IDENTIFYING COMMON BALKAN CONCERNS IN AN ERA OF GLOBAL CRISIS

***A Collection of Short Essays from Undergraduate Students from the
Political Science Department of the Faculty of Law "Iustinianus Primus"
in Skopje, Macedonia***

Skopje, May 2009

Student:	Ruseska Dragana
ID:	1746
Year:	First year - Undergraduate studies
Department:	Political Sciences

The subprime mortgage crisis that escalated in the United States in August 2007 has become a global financial crisis. Nowadays, it is obvious that the crisis affects countries in different ways, depending on the level of development of their national economy. But, considering the fact that the Balkan transition countries are small and open economies on similar development level, we can declare that they have common worries about the impact of the global economic crisis.

Firstly, many countries, including Balkan countries, have been experiencing substantial trade deficits, as a result of the reduction in their export proceeds. This indicates that countries must increase their level of indebtedness, which in turn will increase their interest payments in the medium run. Moreover, there is a lower both foreign and domestic demand for goods and services which imposes substantial risks in terms of more people becoming poorer during this crisis.

Therefore, the Balkan transition countries need to design immediate solutions for these problems, which require strong, decisive leadership with clearly defined goals. What these countries really need is to overcome the internal conflicts. However, if they are still not prepared for solving them, then they should leave them aside and make effort to cooperate. That cooperation consists of different aspects. For example, the authorities of every country may opt for competitive devaluations of their exchange rates in order to stimulate their production and exports. Furthermore, the Balkan countries must use their existing trade arrangements in order to maintain the present volume of regional trade. Thus, the benefits of the free regional trade will

be preserved among the Balkan countries, at the expense of other trading partners. In fact, in order to improve the internal cooperation, Balkan countries may increase import duty for non-Balkan foreign goods, so that consumers will buy more domestic products or products from their neighbouring countries. Moreover, by protecting certain branches and stimulating their production, the authorities will enable more people to work. That will certainly decrease the number of unemployed people and, also, it will reduce poverty.

Finally, Balkan countries should try to overcome the negative effects of the global economic crisis by association and incorporation of their common worries and interests. In that way, they would maintain the stability in every aspect of the social life, including also the economic sphere.

Student:	Antevska Marija
ID:	1751
Year:	First year - Undergraduate studies
Department:	Political Sciences

The fact that the global economic crisis has severely affected the developed economies and powerful multinationals should be a matter of serious concern for the transition economies, as are most Balkan countries. Dealing with the world economic turmoil requires a policy of cooperation which in turn depends on the resolution of bilateral disputes. Therefore, the Balkan solution to the crisis is to strengthen the bilateral relations and to deepen the trade cooperation.

It is advisable that high representatives from national authorities establish a discussion forum that will immediately come up with economic policy recommendations. The focus of their discussions must be on preventing the rise of unemployment rate, the fall in national output and the deterioration of the balance-of-payments position. In other words, the Balkan countries must find common solutions for common problems. For instance, the first goal requires joint effort to attract foreign direct investment in the region. The cooperation should also be expanded in the foreign trade so that these economies will have better access to the European markets.

However, no matter how important it is to deepen the cooperation during a global economic crisis, this is a less likely scenario. Although each Balkan country is not

strong enough to prevent the crisis, they may decide to choose protectionist policies. The economic history has witnessed a number of cases of increase in protectionist measures. This potential problem might be associated with the mentality of people on the Balkan Peninsula that favours economic nationalism.

Nevertheless, the Balkan solutions to the global crisis must be analysed from different aspects under alternative scenarios, given that the economic developments never follow an identical pattern. In other words, the past event is necessary but not sufficient condition for predicting a future event.

Student:	Salifovska Fatime
ID:	1747
Year:	First year - Undergraduate studies
Department:	Political Sciences

The world economic crisis is already a reality. Initially, it has begun as a financial turmoil "made in USA", but later on, it spilled over into a serious recession. The fall in the output seems to be spread across all economic sectors. The world financial crisis has also exhibited downward pressure on the global price level. The share prices in the developed economies are nearly half of their level a year ago, whereas the stock exchanges in the developing and transition economies suffer the worst fall in their history. Moreover, the prices of primary commodities also record a serious declining trend.

Macedonia is small and open economy that trades 120 per cent of its gross domestic product with the rest of the world. The foreign demand for Macedonian goods and services create approximately 55% of its aggregate demand. Therefore, the recession in the European Union and the United States, countries which are main trading partners of Macedonia, has had detrimental consequences on the export proceeds of the Macedonian economy. Moreover, the workers' remittances from abroad that provided critical support for the weak balance-of-payments position of Macedonia have also fallen dramatically. Under these circumstances, it would be even more difficult to attract foreign direct investments, as well.

In terms of coping with the crisis, Macedonia and other Balkan countries must adopt a comprehensive and consistent plan for maintaining the macroeconomic stability. They have to conduct tightening of the fiscal policy, because unlike the developed

economies, their external sustainability and stability is seriously questioned. According to a recent World Bank study, in the past months Macedonia has demonstrated ability to cope with the unfavourable economic developments. It suggests that Croatia, Bulgaria, Serbia and Turkey will experience much severe external shocks, because of their openness to capital inflows.

Probably the Macedonian economy is much smaller and more adjustable. The large number of unfavourable shocks that hit our economy during the transition has created resistance and knowledge to operate under substantially difficult circumstances.

The global crisis impact that is felt on the Balkans can be mitigated only by collective action and mutual cooperation in the region. It is almost obvious that each country will find it very hard to cope with the crisis alone and therefore, regional solutions must be offered to the regional economic crisis. The recovery will take place as soon the economic authorities design anti-crisis measures that will strengthen the financial stability. Certainly, the success of their 'bailout' programmes will largely depend on the economic recovery plans in the advanced economies, given that we are sailing on the same boat.

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The world history is a big wheel that brings numerous unforeseen events that we cannot easily control. Each event involves new turbulent circumstances that have no precedent in the past. It seems like a paradox, but in the contemporary world of rapid technological development and globalisation, the world is experiencing a deep economic crisis that raised serious concerns among policymakers and leaders across the globe. No place on the earth seems to be shielded from the strong economic hurricane and its devastating consequences. "We are all at fault and we are all responsible so we become enemies to one another", are the words of an analyst that point to the unavoidable egoistic behaviour that is expected. The Balkan economies are no exception, as they will probably turn towards protectionism and other modalities of economic nationalism.

The main dilemma is what the expected policy actions by the Balkan countries are during the global economic crisis and whether they will reshape their national policies. In Russia for example, there is a special working group that should design anti-crisis measures to combat the negative implications of the world recession on the Russian economy. On the other hand, the proposed measures must bring at least medium-term benefits, in addition to the short-term popularity of the governments.

One of the anti-crisis measures could refer to the introduction of higher tax rates on luxury goods. It will increase the budget revenue and provide maneuver in the fiscal policy to provide exemptions and/or support to export-oriented companies. In terms of protecting the existing levels of employment, the governments can guide their companies to reduce their foreign investment abroad and protect domestic jobs. This would halt the rise in the unemployment rates and the fall in the living standards. Another policy recommendation refers to the Russian example of strengthening the financial scrutiny on the public enterprises that will ultimately prevent massive layouts. Moreover, the national budget must involve cost-cutting initiatives, such as reduction of military-related expenditure, unproductive current expenditure, etc., that would release more funds for the sectors most severely hit by the crisis. One of the main sectors of concern must be the agricultural one. Further agrarian reforms are needed to stimulate the production, to provide import substitution and support self-employment.

These measures should be only a tiny portion of the policy agenda of the Balkan economies. Their successful implementation would mitigate the impact of the crisis and strengthen their stability and security in foreseeable future. The importance of joint and concerted efforts by the Balkan countries cannot be overestimated.

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The political and economic relations among Balkan countries are so intertwined that each country cannot function as an autarky. On the contrary, each country is obliged to cooperate with its neighbours. The global economic crisis implies that the Balkan

states with joint and concerted efforts must mitigate the unfavourable impact. The mutual cooperation must rest on the similarities of the Balkan states and ignorance of historical legacies.

The improvement of the economic and political cooperation among the Balkan economies should involve a reduction or even elimination of all trade barriers. The reduced tariff rates for instance will facilitate the intra-regional trade. The taxes that burden the businesses and citizens must also be subject to substantial downward revision. The higher degree of trade openness should make the Balkan nations cooperate more closely and improve their bilateral political relations. In fact, they must understand the benefits of functioning like an economic union. Another advantage of the further trade liberalization is to enable the producers to specialize in the areas that are considered as nation's competitive advantages. Therefore, they will have more profitable production that more easily finds access to foreign markets. The benefits of the trade openness will be positive in the longer term. An argument in favour of this statement is the easier mobility of labour, capital and services within the Balkan region.

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The economic growth of each country is closely related with its stability and security. In fact, the social peace and welfare depend on the economic development of a specific country. Achieving these values in a region instable as the Balkan is, with continuous wars in the past, requires lot of efforts. Some of the countries which belong to the Balkan region were part of the former Yugoslav Federation (Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Slovenia, Serbia and Montenegro). All of them except Slovenia are facing economic stagnation and high unemployment rate. Their governments blame transition about the problem and they state that all economic problems they have in their country are due to the never-ending transition. The other Balkan transition countries, such as Bulgaria, Albania, Greece, Romania, Turkey and the recently formed Republic of Kosova are also facing some serious economic problems. In addition, there are common problems of the Balkan countries

presented. Some of them are permanent problem of the countries, and some of them as a direct consequence of the global economic crisis.

These days, in a period of deep recession, improving the economic situation in the Balkan countries is more difficult than before. That is mainly because the developed countries are helping their economies by anti-recession policies so they are not having sufficient amount of grants to improve the situation in the Balkan region. One of the biggest mutual problems that concerns all of the Balkan countries is the high unemployment rate (e.g. Macedonia around 33%, Bosnia and Herzegovina around 40%). Consequently, in a few years the poverty rate will be also higher which makes the future of the citizens very uncertain. That implies a danger of increased rate of crime which, of course, threatens the stability of one country. Moreover, the economic global crisis has also decreased the number of foreign investments in the Balkan countries, which are essential for their economic improvement. Actually, there are no foreign investments lately in the region. That is mainly because of the low degree of stability and security, and because of the great risk of investing today, when the global crisis is deepening. A great number of companies that were owned by foreigners, mainly from the Western countries, have been shut down, and a lot of people have lost their job. The Balkan countries directly depend on the Western European markets and the decline in foreign demand has resulted in fall in output and more unemployed people in the region. The Balkan countries desperately need foreign investments in aim of their economic progress. But, the recession does not go along with this measure and people here hope that the world super powers, the leading countries, will recover their economies soon. The real estate market is also confronting the consequences of the global economic crisis. In Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina, for example, the price of the real estate decreased by 20%, and in Ohrid (Macedonia) not only the prices gone down but the number of those interested in buying property is even smaller. In terms of foreign economic policy and the export-import imbalance, the countries are experiencing substantially reduced foreign trade. The import in Croatia and Serbia for example is reduced by 40%. That means that the economic agents are oriented towards more saving money and postponing unnecessary expenses.

In light of these problems, the European Union, the International Monetary Fund and other international financial organisations must help these countries by providing more loans, offering policy advice and guidelines which the economies on the Balkan

should follow. The European Union must help not only the poorest member states (e.g. Bulgaria and Romania), but also the rest EU candidate countries from the Balkan region. Otherwise, this economic problem could become a long-lasting one, with a solution being hard to reach. Although it would be hard for the Balkan economies to halt the recession by their own, without international support, it is crucial for them to have mutual collaboration because national economies on the Balkan are interdependent. With their allied intellectual forces, the governments of the Balkan countries must work together in order to find the most rational solutions about the numerous economic problems.

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The global economic crisis involves a dramatic fall in world output that might have detrimental effects on many national economies. In essence, it would imply a rise in poverty rates across the world. The economic crisis will have devastating effects in many sectors, from the agriculture to construction to industry and from the personal incomes to the tax revenue collection to the profits.

The Republic of Macedonia has already experienced substantial economic difficulties and therefore, the global economic turmoil will further amplify the weaknesses of the Macedonian economy. The sizeable current account deficits, the income and wealth inequalities, the unemployment rates and the insufficient tax revenue are only a few of the problems on the policy agenda. Thus, the fall in foreign demand and the reduction of the aggregate consumption will probably lead to large-scale labour shedding and result in increasing unemployment rates and rising poverty. The banks are becoming very cautious in approving loans to businesses and households and many of them have already increased the interest rates that will aggravate the indirect impact of the crisis. There might be a positive and large influence on the economy, if the government decides to pursue expansion of government expenditure programmes and tax cuts in order to help the businesses create more jobs and the citizens to increase the private consumption.

The Republic of Macedonia is probably going to suffer the crisis impact much more than the other Balkan economies, because it is recording high trade deficit without

reliable and stable sources of financing. For a country like Macedonia, it would be appropriate to stimulate foreign direct investment into the export-oriented sectors of the economy. For instance, the profit earned by the exporting companies could be exempted from taxation or at least subject to even lower corporate taxes. The investments in the export-oriented sectors will contribute to reduction of the unemployment rates and the trade deficit. Moreover, the government must reallocate the expenditure from non-productive uses to funds that support the real sector.

The design of effective crisis prevention mechanisms rank relatively high on the policy agenda of Balkan countries. The common Balkan concerns therefore refer to the same type of problems. Yet, the policymakers must be aware that the economic crisis may contribute to worsening of the bilateral relations. Such an unfavourable scenario could lead to a surge in protectionism, further economic decline, with contagion effects on the other areas, such as cultural and social activities.

Nobody can exactly predict how long the global economic crisis will last, but its consequences could be catastrophic. Even so, the authorities must bear in mind the pessimistic forecasts that the economic recession in the world will be reversed in 2010, whereas the recovery of the Balkan economies will begin not earlier than 2012.

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All over the world is known that Balkan is, and it will be, one of the most important economic geo-politic points in Europe. In their history Balkan countries get over economic problems very difficult. Some Balkan countries are still relying on the assistance from the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, or they look solutions in European integration. On the other hand, it seems that they are not interested in regional integration, as they put this in second plan. But the crucial point

in this case is that Balkans is more and more affected by the global crisis that will in falling demand and lack of sources of financing, especially direct foreign investments.

When global crisis started there wasn't such strong influence on the Balkan economies, but now it is bigger and bigger, and the situation is harder. The governments of Balkan countries were assured that crisis would not conquer the Balkan. The first shock of international crises arrived in the third and fourth quarter of 2008 in the countries that are candidates and potential candidates for accession in the European Union. Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Bulgaria are the only countries in region that have fixed exchange rate arrangements, one of the reasons that Serbian experts are afraid of. They believe that this fixed exchange rate regime (or the currency board) may not survive the sudden stop in international capital inflows. I think that the problems are waiting for us in near future. This is very difficult moment especially for Macedonia because slowly it becomes one of the countries that is very uncertain to invest in, due to the fragile macroeconomic stability.

Thus, we must work on encouraging exports and foreign investments in our country because it will help to open more plants. In turn, this would create a lot of jobs and would help to reduce unemployment. Also foreign investments can be attracted by providing subsidies for agriculture, etc., which will facilitate the budget revenue mobilization.

The main policy recommendation is therefore to work harder and be more cooperative with our neighbours, because we must demonstrate that the Balkan is an integral part of Europe.

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In this moment we are confronted with an economic problem that concerns the entire world. On the global political scene there is a show that has its premiere. There is no country in the world which has not felt the crisis or which has stayed aside. International financial crisis is already present for 20 months: it started in August 2008 and the strongest shock hit the world's economy after the fall of Lehman

Brothers in September 2008. The growth of the world's economy was substantially reduced and this year it is estimated to be between -1% and -0.5%.

The crisis started in the subprime mortgage market of the developed countries and even at the outset, it was estimated that it will have devastating consequences on the developed economies. The crisis underscored all weakness in the regulation of the financial sector.

Urgent action is necessary on the both fronts: to improve the financial sectors and strengthen the confidence of economic agents. I think that programmes for support are necessary in all countries. In this moment, it is desperately needed to get together and not to close the borders. Countries must not look only for themselves and forget the other countries hit by this crisis as collateral damage. Many developed economies have current account surpluses and accumulated large foreign exchange reserves which make them less vulnerable, but this is not the case with the Balkan economies.

Therefore, the transition countries should accept the leading role and find out solutions for this problem. In this moment, for instance, there is a global need for expansionary fiscal policies. One of the most important factors that will get back our economies on track is the IMF, which should provide substantial amounts of foreign exchange loans.

The macroeconomic policy must be designed to ensure sustainable balance-of-payments deficits, borrow credibility from the IMF and financial support from other multilateral and bilateral organisations. The financial assistance from the Fund will help to finance the balance-of-payment imbalance and secure the stability of the financial system.

The Balkan countries must therefore ask for a greater role of the European Union in the crisis resolution. Lastly, we must bear in mind that the solution for the crisis is already in the Macedonian saying "only united brothers can build a house".

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At the NATO Summit in Strasbourg (France), the American president, Barack Obama described the situation at the Balkans as stable, but pointed out that the

economic crisis can represent a remarkable threat. That is the reason why the USA and the EU have helped so far, but this would be limited as long as the USA is concerned due to the fact that stabilizing their own economy is US main priority. Also high representatives of developed European countries advised major corporations not to open plants in other countries, but to offer new jobs to their citizens.

A recent analysis conducted in January 2009, clearly show a fall of nearly 2-3% *per annum* in the gross domestic product in all Balkans countries, compared to 2008. Industrial production is collapsing and this downward trend may continue. At the end of his speech, the American President underlined that this recession might have negative effect upon Balkans countries and their existing bilateral problems might become even larger obstacles for developing positive relations for solving this global problem.

This troubles everyone: global problems can be solved by global interventions and the rigidity of Balkans policies prevents such favourable outcome. Therefore, a country which is not a member of the EU will be unpleasantly surprised if it seeks help in a miracle. In such a situation, every economy may raise trading barriers, large economies won't cooperate with the small ones, those on the other hand, will be less integrated and this will raise the questions: can the financial sector survive, how high will unemployment be and what will happen in the medium run? Because of their Balkan mentality, people will start blaming others for their worsened position. Will this increase their aggressiveness which will result in armed conflicts that will turn into civil or world wars? Will everybody remember Obama's words that there is a solution to every problem, only there should be a compromise first. And you can reach compromise through negotiations, mutual respect and awareness readiness to surpass all disputes from the past for a better or any future for this part of the world. Let's hope that our leaders will be reasonable enough to understand this and cooperate with each other to find a way out of this situation. Nobody knows, perhaps the Balkan countries might be the first ones to go over the recession and offer help to other countries.



ECONOMICAL

- 1 low GDP
- 2 SME BUSINESS
- 3 FOREIGN INVESTORS
- 4 GLOBAL FINANCIAL CRISIS REFLECTS IN BALKANS LIKE ECONOMIC CRISIS

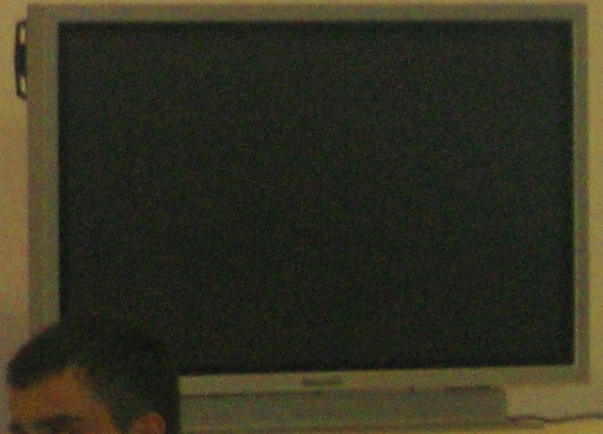
POLITICAL

- 1 STABILITY ↔ NATO
- 2 DIFFERENT POINT OF VIEW IN HISTORY CAN NOT STOP US TO BUILD UP A COMMON PROSPECTIVE FUTURE

stress
analyst
ORIENTAT
IN PROPE
SED CRIP
a tool

- 1 TALK TO EACH-OTHER
- 2 RESPECT DIFFERENCES
- 3 COOPERATION
- 4 STARTING FROM SMALL ISSUES

DIFFERENT BUT
THE



20 years after the fall of the Berlin wall: lessons for the Balkans

Berlin was in the focal point of many changes. The Fall of the Berlin Wall, which will always be used as a symbol for the end of the Cold War, made the "West" available in the middle of the "East", resulting in widespread chaos. Later - much later - normality took hold again. Later, the bickering started, and later, there was talk of a "wall in the heads". But during the November of 1989, almost everyone was overwhelmed by happiness - a national and emotional exception. These changes have made a certain way of globalization. But globalization has also generated significant international opposition over concerns that it has increased inequality and environmental degradation.

This concerned education also. Education can be described as equipping people with the range of competencies necessary to lead productive, fulfilling lives fully integrated into their societies and communities. Many of the international goals are framed exclusively around enrollment, which is merely a means towards creating competencies and learning achievement. New tensions and contradictions also are emerging as a result of these trends. Roles and issues of authority, discipline, autonomy, and liberty are being redefined. The tension between learning needs (as perceived by adults and by youth themselves) and learning wants, or between learning for the present and learning for the future, is being addressed in curriculum and pedagogical design. Experimentation is being advised before "going to scale." It has become increasingly clear that the only way to address such tensions, and to define and promote the best possible educational approaches, will be by engaging youth in the process. Many of the programs make this participatory approach a key ingredient of their philosophy and success.

Traditionally the linkages between school and community, and even between school and parents, have been weak and remain a key challenge to educational reform throughout the world. Emphasis has tended to be, and remains, on internal dynamics within schools and not on external forces in a young person's life. Youth are important agents of change in all societies, even if their contributions remain hidden from public awareness. Millions of youth worldwide study and work hard, take care of their siblings, assist those who know or have less, give up personal comfort to comfort others, and are actively engaged in cultural, social, and political action in their communities and countries.

Effective programs place the learner's potential at the center of the educational process, viewing non-learning as a problem in the educational system, rather than in the student. This may be just one more "to do" list of those that have become familiar to educators worldwide. But it can have real meaning if it triggers a serious, context-framed reflection on current practice and thinking. Because doing differently implies knowing, understanding, and thinking differently. And, while education and training are

important ingredients of any cultural and institutional change strategy, there is nothing like learning by doing, by observing, by listening to others, and by systematically and critically reflecting on one's own practice. This is globalization on all levels.

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FAKULTETI: i Shkencave Politike

Ese

**VI International Student Conference of Brojan Tanevski
Memorial Fund in cooperation with Konard-Adenauer-Stiftung**

Tema:

The Global Crisis

Mentori:

Studentja
Gjyltene Ademi
ID:113016

Maj-2009

The Global Crisis

Recently this topic is spoken everywhere including; at home privately, at school, in radios, in televisions. On the news almost every day is taken as the topic of the day. I must be honest and unfortunately truly say that this subject is becoming very popular nowadays because of her domination all over the world.

I'm living in a period when global crisis is at its worst point, rarely I miss the week without hearing the word ouch I don't have the money enough to do "that or this", someone and suddenly reacts immediately in a very angry way and jumps with his threaten voice by saying; "Are you insane leave "that or this (fashion, cars, dandy dressing, etc,.)" consider what will you eat today and tomorrow, "that and this" are gone in the vocabulary of modern language. Yes it might appear one day once again, but till that day you should do successfully battles and earn victories, so in that way with a lot of strive you can allow the favorites words "this and that" to appear again together. Today only "food" is the theme that we should brightly think how we will manage to get it to our families and not letting them to hunger with no proper food to eat, no water to drink, no light to study, by thinking the magically words "that or this", hello people the elements of life are coming to and end."

So this crisis is obviously famous, the question can be how all this famous came from and you will believe as you already believe there are plenty reasons how all this occurred, well let me show you examples.

This crisis her source has it from the most powerful states in the world which is clearly visible that we are talking for the United Stated of America. The states from which, the uncomfortable situations came from and speared all over the planet.

The crisis in real estate, banking and credit in the United States had a global reach, affecting a wide range of financial and economic activities and institutions, including the:

Overall tightening of credit with financial institutions making both corporate and consumer credit harder to get.

Financial markets (stock exchanges and derivative markets) that experienced steep declines, liquidity problems in equity funds and hedge funds, devaluation of the assets underpinning insurance contracts and pension funds leading to concerns about the ability of these instruments to meet future obligations: increased public debt public finance due to the provision of public funds to the financial services industry and other affected industries, and the devaluation of some currencies and increased currency volatility.

We had crisis before hundred years ago like 1929 and 1933 all this happens when there is a disorderly contraction in money supply and wealth in an economy. It is also known as a credit crunch. It occurs when participants in an economy lose confidence in having loans repaid by debtors. This causes lenders to limit further loans as well as recall existing loans.

The financial/banking system relies on credit creation as a result of debtors spending the money which in turn is 'banked' and loaned to other debtors. As a result a relative small contraction in lending can lead to a dramatic contraction in money supply. The Great Depression occurred after a dramatic expansion in debt and money supply in the roaring twenties.

All this affect the whole planet because of our partnership with United State we are the same victims to deal with such crisis.

The Global Crises is nearly impacting every state with making lack of food water and much more examples which are making us feel without confidence if we write it all down at the same time.

The economic and social crises instantly are very seriously enemies, there are many complex features underlying the global economic crisis pertaining to financial markets, the decline in production, the collapse of State institutions and the rapid development of a profit-driven war economy. What is rarely mentioned in this analysis is how this global economic restructuring forcibly impinges on three fundamental necessities of life: food, water and fuel.

The provision of food, water and fuel is a precondition of civilized society: they are necessary factors for the survival of the human species. In recent years, the price of these three variables has increased dramatically at the global level, with devastating economic and social consequences.

These three essential goods or commodities, which in a real sense determine the reproduction of economic and social life on planet earth, are under the control of a small number of global corporations and financial institutions.

Both the State as well as the gamut of international organizations often referred to as the "international community" serve the unfettered interests of global capitalism. The main intergovernmental bodies including the United Nations, the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organizations (WTO) have endorsed the New World Order on behalf of their corporate sponsors. Governments in both developed and developing countries have abandoned their historical role of regulating key economic variables as well as ensuring a minimum livelihood for their people.

Protest movements directed against the hikes in the prices of food and gasoline has erupted simultaneously in different regions of the World. The conditions are particularly critical in Haiti, Nicaragua, Guatemala, India, and Bangladesh. Spiraling food and fuel prices in Somalia have precipitated the entire country into a situation of mass starvation, coupled with severe water shortages. A similar and equally serious situation prevails in Ethiopia.

Other countries affected by spiraling food prices include Indonesia, the Philippines, Liberia, Egypt, Sudan, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Eritrea, a long list of impoverished countries..., not to mention those under foreign military occupation including Iraq, Afghanistan and Palestine.

As conclusion I might say that this is a major universal chaos we must consider these moments critically we don't need to be dragged by selfish kind of love, we have to realize that there are people who have not enough to eat, not a nickel to loan we shouldn't pretend that they aren't alone, someone is washed out dream and follow the pattern of the wind because of no good place to be. All this affected by the scary word "Global Crises".

On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin wall: lessons for the Balkans

As we know, after the Second World War Germany was in a major political crisis because it remained in the center of the most influential states in the international system, and then on 13 August 1961 built the Berlin Wall, which made the division of Germany on the Eastern and the Western part.

As we mentioned in the topic and lessons for the Balkans, we can say that the Balkans at that time were a highly developed and advanced industrially and economically, and this happened because there was not an iron curtain as in Germany, but was almost a state. However, the Balkans at that time was under the influence of a notorious ideology, which was not communist principle of democracy.

After the Berlin Wall destruction on 9 November 1989 and the reunification of Germany, a miracle happened at the same time of emergency, because the destruction of this wall was realized at the end of the Cold War which created a greater stability worldwide.

Two years later that became the destroyer of Yugoslavia which made the destruction that all Balkan states wanted to declare autonomy and independence of their countries and to go towards the road of democratization and politics.

However, let us ask a very philosophical question: What is the impact that was realized after the destruction of Yugoslavia? Many analysts have expressed their opinions about this issue, but my opinion is that the Balkans from 1990 have performed the way towards the road of democratization and liberal policy, each state ratified their constitutions, the principle of democracy, rule of law and protection of human rights and freedoms.

One difference between this period of twenty years and now is that it is still present on the Balkans today, even though the Communist ideology is not practiced anymore, again it still exists as a wall or hidden in a curtain between states, which prevents the states to built better relations between them, for example problem with the Kosovo issue, where Serbia has always called itself as genocide and has announced to her by the other day Greece and Macedonia in

the name, and many other examples. Can say that it exists because of the mist policies where the major superpowers directed certain states and always challenged one another, may also deal as accurate as the opinion states that want to maintain the values and folk traditions, and this reason they maintain this wall between themselves.

However, we must look at the problem from a different perspective and analyze the various facts and phenomena, and at the end we reach a conclusion that can come to an agreement and consensus to destroy this wall or curtain between the shadowed states that the Balkans will not be divided. When we say not be divided, we say it in the sense that states should have relations between features, function and circulating free economy and the common market, freedom and the rights of all persons, etc.

In my opinion or my conclusion on how to achieve this is that there is only one solution, and it is less the look and deal with history, and create less nostalgia feelings or feelings of patriotism, because it slows down the process of integration of the Balkan states and relations between them. With this you can conclude that to have good relations between the Balkan states and to topple the shadowed wall, states and people should be more taken with the future and integration of states into NATO and the EU, because only this way we can integrate between them and create neighborhood. We should all work together for a better future.

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