



European Union and its neighbourhood.
Network for enhancing EU's actorness
in the eastern borderlands
ERASMUS+ Project 2017-2625

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INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

“The Future of World Order: Stability or Disarray?”

Thursday, October 25 th, **16:00-18:00**
ORADEA, Aurel Lazar Museum

Organizers:

1. University of Oradea, Department of International Relations and European Studies
2. Aston University
3. University of Craiova, Center for Foreign Policy and Security Studies

Introductory Speeches(10 minutes)

Professor Ioan Horga PhD, Dean of the Faculty of History, International Relations, Political Sciences, University of Oradea & Assoc Prof. Doctoral School in International Relations and Security Studies, ” Babes-Bolyai” University of Cluj-Napoca

Assoc. Prof. Florin Pasatoiu, PhD, Center for Foreign Policy and Security Studies, University of Craiova,

Featuring a Keynote Address by:

John Mearsheimer, PhD

Professor

University of Chicago

Q & A by (50 minutes)

1. **Assoc. Prof. Ekaterina Mikhaylenko**, Ph.D., Department of International Relations, Ural Federal University, Russian Federation
2. **Assoc. Prof. Cristian Nitoiu, Ph.D**, Aston University, UK
3. **Loredana Maria Simionov, PhD** Researcher, Center of European Studies, ”Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iasi
4. **Sorin Dan, PhD** Griffiths School of Management, University ”Emanuel” Oradea
5. **Assoc. Prof. Klara Czimre, PhD**, University of Debrecen/ Hungary
6. **Assoc. Prof. Dorin Dolghi, PhD**, Department of International Relations and European Studies, University of Oradea & Assoc Prof. of Department of International Relations and Security Studies, ,” Babes-Bolyai” University of Cluj-Napoca
7. **Assoc. Prof. Ioana Bordeianu PhD**, School of Border Police Oradea, Assoc. Prof of Department of International Relations and European Studies, University of Oradea
8. **Assoc Prof. Ioana Albu PhD**, Department of Political Sciences and Communications, University of Oradea
9. **Assoc. Ciprian Beniamin Benea PhD**, Faculty of Economics, International Business Department, University of Oradea

Assistents of Workshop

Assist. Edina Meszaros Phd, Department of International Relations and European Studies, University of Oradea

Assist. Mirela Marcut PhD, Department of International Relations and European Studies, University of Oradea

The future world order: Stability or Disarray ?



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The last two years have witnessed a period of relative stability in the international arena. This is in contrast with the previous five years which were marked by considerable disorder and panic in the Western-led liberal world order. Major crises affected key pillars of the Euro-Atlantic model, and shattered the perceived infallibility or supremacy of the West. The financial crisis, the collapse of the Arab Spring in Syria, Libya and Yemen, the Ukraine conflict and the migrant crisis in the European Union (EU) have all highlighted the vulnerabilities of global liberalism. The response of the West has been timid at best, with key actors such as the US or EU not living up to their commitments and ambitions, which has damaged their international status. Volatility rather than stability was the driving force in the world order during this period. In contrast, contrary to the analyses of many pundits Donald Trump's presidency has brought a sense of relative stability in the liberal world order, with no new exogenous conflicts significantly putting to the test the Western way of resolve. Nevertheless, in the background the very pillars of the Western-led liberal world order (the US, UK, and the EU) have begun to reframe their foreign policy goals and embrace more one sided policies, which place narrow interests above universal norms and values. Hence, external pressure might have decreased or stabilized, but the challenge from within the liberal world order has certainly become more salient.

This period of relative stability in the world order might prove to be short-lived, and primarily influenced by the unpredictable nature of Trump's presidency, with world leaders still trying to gauge the direction of his administration's foreign policy. The conditions that led to disorder and panic before Trump took office have not been transformed, but rather lay dormant. One of the most important factors is the so-called 'New Cold War' between the West and Russia, which has brought intense tensions and potential conflict between the two former rivals. Trump's presidency promised the detensioning (of relations with Moscow, but in practice the US and Europe have continued their uncompromising approach towards Russia, while the Kremlin has thrived on using the "besieged castle" narrative (reinforced by targeting and isolation by the West) in order to strengthen its domestic position. Secondly, the situation in the Middle East seems on the surface to be less tense than five years ago, but most conflicts following the Arab Spring have slipped into frozen conflicts or civil wars which can last for a prolonged period. Thirdly, China has embarked on an even more assertive path in its foreign policy. Its actions in the South China Sea can be seen as a daring challenge to the presence of the US in the region, while its model of global governance is increasingly gaining traction (over the EU or US ones) in Africa and Central Asia. Finally, the BRICs, even though not yet a fully coherent bloc, have advanced their plans to institutionalize the grouping.

In this context the upcoming roundtable seeks to evaluate the nature of recent developments in world order in the short to medium term. While the wind seems to blow from the Western centered world order, it is unlikely that a new coherent model will emerge within the next decade. Moreover, countries like China or Russia are not entirely revisionist, and in fact are highly integrated into some areas of the current liberal world order. It is rather more likely that the world order will see an increased shift from a focus on liberal values and norms, with more emphasis on pragmatism and *realpolitik* in relations among states.