

THESIS PROPOSAL SAMPLE

SECURITY ISSUES IN SE ASIA

Problem statement

The 21st century is often referred to as the century of Asian rising, due to the forecasted economic progress and development that will mark global economic trends and political relations. Accelerated development is accompanied by the growth of geopolitical cravings of the future world powers of India and the People's Republic of China, who are competing for the primacy in South East Asia, both with each other and with already established global forces such as the US and Japan. While fewer regional countries gathered in the ASEAN did not enter the center of the public, the progress they recorded in both economic and regional integration enabled them to implement an independent external and internal policy. Despite the progress, many problems continue to plague regional countries, from internal instability marked by armed insurrections, international crime in the smuggling of drugs, weapons, and people to border disputes between regional countries and the PR China. This paper explores the reasons for internal instability and external challenges, the solutions, whether the ASEAN countries can demonstrate the key ability to position themselves as an independent political actor on the global political scene.

Conceptualization

ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) is a regional organization founded in 1967 by the signing of the Bangkok Declaration in the capital of Thailand, Bangkok. Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia and the Philippines have united common goals such as regional self-sustainability, non-interference, peace-dedication, the desire for economic development and solving problems through regional dialogue and consensus (Ba, 2009). The ASEAN draft has united the political elites of states of a very diverse ethnic and religious composition in times of instability and the cold war of the Cold War. Despite the great differences in both the economic stage of development and in mutual relations and the view of various disputes, such as the dispute over the northern Borneo between the Philippines and Malaysia, the foreign ministers of the six regional states in the decades to come created the most successful regional organization behind the European Union. The beginning of regional integration was marked by the shared experiences of colonialism, the Korean and the course of the Vietnam War, in which the world powers of the United States and the USSR broke the geopolitical positions in developing countries and their own fear of similar fate in their territory. The beginning of the decade passed in the sign; the propulsive development of the economy, the building of regional independence based on the principles of dialogue, consensus and noninterference, which resulted in a growing confidence in the regional response to problems and strengthened stability in the region once full of mutual and internal conflicts and disputes. Establishment of central regional institutions, the ASEAN secretariat in Jakarta in 1976, and the conclusion of multilateral agreements, such as the agreement on the Zone of Freedom, Peace and Neutrality (ZOPFAN) of 1971, as well as the Peace and Cooperation Agreement 1976 (Treaty of Amity and Cooperation, TAC),

are crucial steps that have enabled more co-operation and the establishment of regional responses to development issues, the Vietnam War, the civil war in Cambodia and have been the foundation of a stronger enlargement in the future. The disintegration of the USSR and the bloc's division of the world in the 1990s reduces the influence of the powers in East and Southeast Asia and opens up space for the expansion of regional integration to the Communist states of Indochina, Vietnam in 1995, and Laos and Myanmar in 1997. In Manila in 1999, with the entry of Cambodia, ASEAN assumes its current coverage of 10 members with the possibility of receiving Papua New Guinea in the future.

In 2017, ASEAN celebrates its 50th anniversary since the signing of the Bangkok Declaration and the founding of ASEAN, which can be used to analyze the current position and role of ASEAN in Asia and the world. Numerous foreign policy problems are resolved by the end of the Cold War and by the integration of the communist countries into ASEAN, but the new ones arise especially at the beginning of the new millennium when Asian superpowers come to the world stage. At the same time, along with the democratization process, many countries of Southeast Asia, triggered by the economic crisis in the late 1990s, have begun to strengthen the activities of various social organizations, which has boosted the necessity of analyzing the internal stability of the states in the wider stability of the region and the world. The process of democratization is not linear, and along with pro-democracy social organizations, actors who belong to the category of non-civil society appeared. The non-civilized spectrum is most often made up of organizations whose goals are related to separatism, self-defense or the imposition of various ideological structures of society. Among them, regional and global character is most pronounced in Islamist terrorist groups that are associated with similar organizations both in the countries of the region and with groups in other parts of the world, such as South and Southwest Asia. On the foreign policy plan, the unipolar world from the beginning of the '90s today is increasingly replacing a multipolar world in which the growing Asian superpowers, like China, and in the future India, certainly represent a challenge in the security aspect of Southeast Asia. As an important guarantor of stability in the region that lies on the most important world passes, like the Malayan, the United States, as a hitherto hegemon, is faced with the growth of power and the emergence of new competitors in the Pacific. The question of the involvement of the United States today depends on the foreign policy decisions of the new administration of President Trump and the US relationship with traditional allies in the region, Japan, Taiwan, South Korea, Singapore and the Philippines. Particular mention should be made of the future relationship between the two Presidents, Trump and Duterte who turn the Philippines closer to co-operation with China. Depot of Japan, DPR Korea with nuclear capability, the awakening of Russia, the foreign policy of Australia and New Zealand, and the issue of Taiwan's selfmanagement and relations with China are parts of the wider mosaics that make the region the most turbulent area of the world on which the global security system is dependent.

In addition to the already mentioned growing powers, ASEAN countries should be mentioned as an important emerging market. In the year of signing the Bangkok Declaration of the present-day ASEAN state, they accounted for 7.4% of the world's population and 3.3% of the world's GDP divided into 10 closed national economies, some of which were burdened by the war (World Bank, 2017). Today, 50 years later, ASEAN members account for 8.6% of the world's population, and about 6.7% (World Bank, 2017) of the world economy integrated into the ASEAN Free Trade Zone, moving towards further integration under the ASEAN Economic Zone established 2015 year. But the growth of industrialization of the society and urbanization will confront the region with a challenge of a different growth that will not be based on population growth but on the growth of their standard. The successes of the ASEAN member on both the internal and the foreign policy plan will be an important step towards stability both in the region and in the world.

Theoretical foundation

The economic crisis from the end of the 1990s marked the end of the optimistic period marked by the expansion of regional integration, interregional cooperation and economic growth. The devaluation of the Thailand's Baht (Correra, 1997) was merely a spark that with the help of low-productivity guides spilled the economic crisis in mid-1997. McNally cites the following causes of the 1990s crisis: "Explosive growth in industry in Southeast Asia has quickly led to a shortage of labor, which combined with more active workforce has led to an increase in labor" (McNally, 1998, taken from Glasman & Carmody, 2001). Crafts adds to the conclusion that "this happened at a time when labor productivity slowed down and development margins, such as difficulties in system-enhanced technology, were more common." (Crafts, 1999, taken from Glasman & Carmody, 2001). Glasman and Carmody conclude that "while labor costs were relatively low compared to 80's productivity in South East Asia, they suddenly and dramatically surpassed the productivity of the '90s, which, with overcapacity, led to a fall in profits". Further, as Bello and Dixon point out, in Thailand, the decline in profit rates resulted in a certain geographical relocation of the industry, but also through the relocation through the sector, i.e. to the growth of speculative investment in stock and real estate in the period around 1995 (Bello, 1998; Dixon, 1999, taken from Glasman & Carmody, 2001). The growth in investment in finance was not accompanied by the growth in profitability of production which led to the crisis (Glasman & Carmody, 2001). The aforementioned economic trends have been hit by founders, Indonesia, Singapore, the Philippines, Thailand and Malaysia, due to a greater degree of economic integration, from ASEAN members (Beitinger, 2009). So in the region in the late 90s there was the creation of fertile soil for the development of numerous protest and radical groups which at the time of economic and social depression gained access to a greater number of recruits, thus yielding the effect of semen of instability in fertile soil. Following the 2001 attacks on Afghanistan and Iraq in 2003, terrorist cells from countries affected by US intervention dispersed to the rest of the world. In the land of South East Asia, paradoxically, the seeds of terrorism have been sown by the United States in a global war on terrorism.

Even though separatist and Islamist movements existed in Southeast Asia, further strength was gained by the end of the new millennium by coming into contact with experienced Islamist fighters from Pakistan, Afghanistan and other South and Southwest Asian countries.

External relations in the area of South East Asia are primarily due to its position between the Pacific and the Indian Ocean, i.e. on the communication paths between them. The communication paths are primarily straits; Malacca, Lombok, Sunda straits and Celebes Sea. The area passes trade routes from Europe, South-West and South Asia, and Africa to China and the west coast of North America. This is an important energy corridor because industrialized economies such as Japan import 80% of them, and China, which imports about 40% of its oil imports, depend on these sources of energy supply. In addition to the important energy flow, there is also a great flow of goods, mines and products through and through. Foreign policy is also determined by the presence of world powers and their mutual relations. In the area of Southeast Asia, the interests of the United States and China are currently conflicting. With the two world poles of power, Allied countries are also linked, in the case of the USA, that is Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand, while in the case of China, it is primarily the DPR of Korea. Relations between the two states since the coming into power of Kim Jong-Un disrupted by the development and testing of nuclear capabilities and the intercontinental ballistic missiles of Korea DPR, China is increasingly forced to seek reliable and stable allies in the South East Asia region. In addition to the above mentioned countries, other actors who are, or will be, important for the stability of Southeast Asia are to be mentioned. In the first place, this refers to India, a country of about 1.3 billion people (World Bank, 2017). The growth of India over the next few decades will be very important for the security and stability of the Southeast Asia region. The importance of India can be read in two contexts, first as a new emerging market that potentially opens up space for broad economic co-operation and as a future geopolitical force and an important actor whose growing geopolitical appetites will be a challenge for ASEAN countries. Although faced with the collapse of the USSR in the late 1980s and the loss of power, Russia is also one of the world's forces with an impact visible in South East Asia. From solving problems with North Korea to counteract the influence of other global actors, Russian awakening can be decisive in many aspects of the future mosaics in Southeast Asia. Geopolitical relations are primarily driven by overlapping, i.e. by mutual interests that materialize through co-operation between states in a given field. Materialization of common interests can, for example, be seen in economic co-operation, trade, people and money, military co-operation, sales technology, weapons and equipment and diplomatic cooperation, through the establishment of joint institutions, the launch of joint initiatives and diplomatic support in various international bodies. External and internal stability and security are mutually dependent and dependent. Consequently, changes in the internal goals of states often bring about change in external political action, and changes in the foreign policy situation often lead to changes in the internal security policy. Given the above-described complexity of the ASEAN problem, it

is not surprising that, despite broad mutual cooperation, there are differences within the bloc itself in relations with the mentioned geopolitical actors. Relations between states are of great importance both to historical relations through the past as well as to the internal structure itself and the relations within the internal politics. Countries that have been in the past in intense relationships do not necessarily have common goals in the present or the future. The common past often leaves open questions or conflicts, and there is a possibility that in the present state there will be unresolved relations such as border disputes and a different view of past events. Likewise, elements shared by common culture or faith can have cohesive action.

Methods and techniques for data collection and analysis

Research on the topic is predominantly theoretical-empirical, because the method of document analysis (content) is applied as an operational method for data collection in immediate political practice. Written statements contained in the political documents require that the method of research be structured as an integral methodological-theoretical orientation, that is, as an integral connection of methodological procedures and solutions of contemporary theoretical and methodological trends, which are affirmed by the positive results of applying the method of analysis (contents) of documents in research practice. The specialized nature of the content of the subject of research imposes a precise methodological approach that includes methods inherent in social sciences, primarily political science, but also a wider analytical corpus of the methodology of social sciences (legal, sociological, historical, etc.). The subject of research is covered by methods of analysis and deduction, everything related to the theoretical attitudes about the characteristics of the application of the method of analysis (contents) of documents from the fund of previous proven scientific knowledge. Also, structural analysis, analogy, and deduction include unreleased scientific knowledge, since in the sciences, due to their dynamism and dispersion, the scope of a scientifically-recognized, yet unreleased, higher than in other sciences and content is variable. Therefore, methods of analysis, synthesis, abstraction, generalization and specialization are applied through the deductive method. Since the explanation of individual phases of the scientific research process analyzes the role of the method of analysis (content) of the document individually, the analysis has a descriptive character, while occasionally, during the analysis and description of the role of the method as a whole, and based on some of its characteristics and / or roles in the individual stages of the process scientific research, the analysis has an explicit character. Also, the hypothetical-deductive method, as an experimental method, was suitable for application in this type of research, since its cognitive and, in particular, the scientific and cognitive basis is a total social and scientific experience. At the empirical level, in the sphere of non-expert, experiential knowledge, analysis of some characteristic examples of the use of the method of analysis (contents) of documents, first of all using the method of induction and generalization, and then the methods of systematization, classification and analogy, systematization of new totals of knowledge was made, their convergence and connection, complete with still unrelieved scientific knowledge, as well as with proven scientific knowledge about the subject of research, have been completed.

Finally, the method of analysis (contents) of documents, was used in the consideration of validated scientific knowledge, unreliable scientific knowledge, empirical knowledge, as well as non-existent knowledge of the subject of research.

A sample of documents containing the arguments that are taken in the analysis during the research are envisaged as an intentional sample, as follows:

- Papers, articles, books and various literature sources (databases) researching the chosen subject or subjects related to it
- Documents of official correspondence of state bodies and institutions, current and archived;
- Documents containing analyzes, assessments and guidelines for institutional and political action;
- Documents containing records, notes and commentaries of events, statements and individual experience.

REFERENCES

Ba, Alice, D. (2009). (Re)Negotiating East and Southeast Asia, Stanford University Press, Stanford.

Correra (1997). Thailand: The crisis starts, BBC,
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/special_report/1997/asian_economic_woes/34487.stm,
(Accessed 28.12.2018.)

Glassman, J. & Carmody, B. (2001). Structural adjustment in East and Southeast Asia: lessons from Latin America, *Geoforum*, 32, pp. 77 - 90.

The World Bank (2017), Population total, timeframe 1960 to 2016, 2017:<https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL?end=2016&locations=THPH-MM-LA-KH-BN-SG-ID-VN-MY-IW&start=2016&view=bar>, (Accessed 28.12.2018.)

Beitinger Lee, V. (2009). (Un)Civil Society and Political Change in Indonesia, Routledge studies on civil society in Asia, Abingdon.