



BOOK REVIEWS

Cristina I. Marine, *European Union Enlargement and Redefining Trans-atlanticism*, Cluj Napoca, Eikon, 2011, 397 pages, ISBN 978-973- 757-450-3

Review by Lia POP

The Identities' use on a large scale seems to be the present challenge on the international competition. The continental actors are the single competitors able to concentrate and to mobilize effectively their energies in order be successful in the new political economical environment, where crisis occurs and problems com without end.

The scale and the nature of the competition is imposing to the European and American actors the same direction: unity. The demand for unity across the Atlantic is obvious for the strategists and politicians. It is the single way to win! It is to be largely transferred to the public as a clear conscience that there is a single way in the future battles: the common march! For the US, NATO and, the EU the name of the unity is Trans-atlanticism. Its content is the unquestionable solidarity! Around the nucleus of Trans-atlanticism, there is to mobilize the energies of soft power to align others' solidarities: there are the solidarities of it with Russia, China, India, Brazil, new emergent powers and with others entities which are embracing the values incorporated in trans-atlanticism. To involve them in approaching the global problems and to take global responsibilities as continental actors.

The thesis of reinventing Altantic solidarity for the current century, is supported, with academic sagacity and journalistic ability to get the catching expression, by Cristina Marine in her recent book. The author is describing the EU enlargement as a process fully supported by US and NATO alliance and explicitly

dedicated to reach together – US, NATO and EU – the dimensions needed in the present competition. The **Chapters: *Benchmarks of Progress Towards the European Union, The Fifth Enlargement Wave of the European Union, and Romania's European Union Accession – A Case Study*** are conceived as proofs of the traditional unity and beneficial effects of trans-atlanticism in Europe. The Romanian case, is one of the most illustrative one, for the role of US and NATO in Romania accessing in EU, in Monitoring Period, as well as, in the Post-accession time. The author is demonstrating how this support is facilitating the Romanian reforms and the opening of the Brussels institutions to Romania's accomplishment asserted even by the transatlantic institutions.

In the same perspective of a common march – US, NATO, and EU - and of a mutual support are explored the perspectives in the Chapters: *The Treaty of Lisbon; The US Perspective on the European Union, Fifth Enlargement Wave. (The Fifth Wave of enlargement is considered as two stages wave: 2004 and 2007)*.

Chapter six is describing the rift among the partners alongside the Atlantic. But, it is underlining its cause: Iraqi war ceased. It is also argued that the reality of the present trans-atlanticism is not the rift. It is the objective proliferation of pro-unity factors influence: the New Global Challenges, the Globalization and the Strengthening of the Transatlantic Economy

*The core Chapter of the book European Union Enlargement and the Redefining the Trans-atlanticism is the chapter on Trans-atlanticism. It is approaching the Redefining Trans-atlanticism process. Marine is looking concretely at the facts: trans-atlanticism in action. But she is also considering the nature of the power of trans-atlaticism. It is a complementary power of the participants – *hard power* comming for the US and NATO part and *soft power* for EU. That leads to a Trans-atlanticism as a smart political power, and this type better fits our times' needs. It is also the most reliable way of constructing and using power. (The concept of the "smart power" is taken in the sense coined by J. Nye Jr.)*

Looking at the facts the author is exploring: *The EU, the Immediate Neighborhood and US Interests; The US Military Power, NATO, ESDP; The US, the EU, and the Rest of the World; US, EU, China; US, EU, Russia; US, EU, the Middle East, North Africa; US, EU, Latin America.* Ms Marine is concluding for Redefining trans-atlanticism as the quite unique chance for the US to keep its global status of superpower. In order to reach it, US has to see the future as partnership with EU.



The institutional and public conscience on it is to be redefined as a **Forum for US, NATO, EU presence in the global arena as the American Scholar Serfaty is pleading for. The public conscience is to be awake of the new global responsibilities and to support the political actors able and willing to take them.**

The thesis of the solidarity across the Atlantic borders as an unquestionable one is not new in America. (There are at least 10 years, since the trans-atlanticism is a goal both for the Americans Think Tankers from CS&IS, coordinated by Simon Serfaty and from *Transatlantic Studies*, led by Daniel Hamilton. The books of Serfaty¹ and Hamilton² is pushing to this direction the foreign policy on the both sides of the Atlantic, by pressing the academic conscience and the political expertise with lessons from the past and from the exercise of rationality. They open the front for Trans-atlanticism and issue concrete ways of enforcing it in Europe too, with institutional tools and through public diplomacy efforts. The Brzezinski chair, conceived and led by Serfaty in the

¹ Simon Serfaty is the author (or Editor) of many books dedicated to the topics of atlanticism: *the Vision of the Atlantic Alliance: the United States, the European Union, and NATO* (2005); *Visions of America and Europe: September 11, Iraq, and Transatlantic relations* (2005, Co-autor together with Cristina Balis), *A recast partnership?: institutional dimensions of transatlantic relations*, (); *Architects of Delusion: Europe, America, and the Iraq War* (2007); *The pressures for a new Euro-Atlantic security strategy ...* (2008); *A shared security strategy for a Euro-Atlantic partnership of equals: a report of the global dialogue between the European Union and the United States* (2009, in dialogue with Sven Bishop); He has edited books such as: *A Recast Partnership? Institutional Dimensions of Transatlantic Relations* (2008); *Visions of the Atlantic Alliance* (2005); *Visions of America and Europe* (2004), *The European Finality Debate and its National Dimensions* (2003) ~~§~~ and *The Media and Foreign Policy* (1990).

CSIS and by Simon Serfaty, in his books and articles after 2001 and particularly in the collection of studies *Visions of the Atlantic Alliance: the United States, the European Union, and NATO* (2005). The forum US, EU, NATO would enable the trans-atlantic actors to take part together and efficiently to the global decision-making process.

² Dan Hamilton, from Johns Hopkins University authored or edited in the last ten years: *Shoulder to Shoulder: Forging a Strategic U.S.-EU Partnership* (2010); *The Transatlantic Economy 2010* (2010); *Alliance Reborn: An Atlantic Compact for the 21st Century* (2009); *Humanitarian Assistance: Improving U.S.-European Cooperation* (2009); *Globalization and Europe: Prospering in the New Whirled Order* (2008); *The Wider Black Sea Region in the 21st Century: Strategic, Economic and Energy Perspectives* (2008); *Terrorism and International Relations* (2006); *Deep Integration: How Transatlantic Markets Are Leading Globalization* (2005); *Protecting the Homeland* (2005); *The New Frontiers of Europe: The Enlargement of the European Union, Implications and Consequences*, editor (2005); *Partners in Prosperity* (2004); *Transatlantic Homeland Security* (2004); *Transatlantic Transformations: Equipping the Alliance for the 21st Century* (2004);

Johns Hopkins University, is dedicated to train scholars with these values and with such an expertise. An intense academic activity – the seminars, and the books attacked the topics – is a real trend in the American literature of the last ten years and in the political expertise.)

The new directions in the trans-atlanticisms culture are the openness to the partnership with Europe, to surpass the Bush traditions of superpower arrogance. The new trend is embraced and advocated by Ms Marine in her book.

The nature of the trans-atlanticism as a global power is not only its capacity to put together the will of more than 800 000 000 of people, across the Atlantic, but also their elites' wisdom to reinvent the concept permanently in order to anticipate the global challenges as the leader of the process, not as its loser . It is also the nature of a “smart power” as the author demonstrated.

This approach is 'fresh' for Romanian academic milieu, and it is also profiting for Romanian politicians. The thesis of trans-atlanticism as an unquestionable solidarity between the US and the EU on the front of large global battles, is important for Romanian political actors and for their efforts to get a line in the Romanian foreign policy. It is also important for the Romanian public in order not to be the victim of the new wave of nationalism which is flourishing in Europe in connection with the Global Economic Crisis. It is important to fully understand that the small actors' time in the global arena is out. Without the large solidarities around the same values and with large hard power support there is not chance to play a global role and to get access to the resources. So, Romanians should support the countries' alliances and to learn the lessons of recent past, that of firm actions in unity with EU, NATO, US is conducting the club of winners.