COLOR REVOLUTIONS – THE INCOMPLETE PICTURE OF THE POLITICAL MAP OF THE WORLD

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Abstract

The paper presents the nature of the "Color revolutions" which mark the development of contemporary international relations since the beginning of 21st century. The text describes the technology of conducting socio-political change in many countries. Attention is paid to external driving powers that dictate what happens in the countries affected by these revolutions.

Key words: "Color revolution", "Arab Spring", domination, soft power, values

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Technological aspects of modern politics

We are witnessing the emergence of new technologies and tools for managing public and in particular economic processes in the world in the political rivalry amongst the major players; tools applied by these players to the object of manipulation. "Information war", "Manageable Chaos", Color Revolution" and the "Hybrid War" are all in the arsenal of these modern technologies and tools.

In the second half of the 20th Century some really strong social and economic shuttering events occurred as well as a number of 'revolutionary' waves in different regions of the world. This period includes the so-called 'Tender Revolutions' from the late 1980s in Eastern Europe, the wave of 'Color Revolutions' in the states of the Post-Soviet areas and last but not least – the 'revolutions' that were later called 'Arab Spring' in the states of North Africa. It is difficult to say that they are equal but we can't help but notice the fact that there are a number of similarities at hand in the way they occurred. A definite proof of that is the 'successfully' carried out in 2014 'upgrade' of the Ukrainian 'Orange Revolution' labeled with the especially popular name "Euromaidan". This leads to the thought that regardless of the region in the world where these 'revolutionary' events occurred, there is a strikingly similar scenario for the provoking and realization of these so-called revolutions, i.e. they are not as spontaneous but in fact 'directed' by foreign to these countries players.

Nature and Interpretation of the Concept of "Color Revolution"

"Color Revolution" is a term used to name a number of socio-political events in the world at the end of the 20th and the beginning of the 21st century. This is a technology and a set of tools to overthrow those in power by using non-constitutional means (something like a 'hidden' coup) in a country where the pressure on those in power is exerted through political blackmail by using the tool of the protest movement (mostly consisting of young people). Characteristic features of 'Color revolutions' include mass protests and demonstrations the aim being not just a change in the current political elite or in the worst case scenario its geopolitical orientation but a total change of the state foundations. As a rule, military power is not the basic tool of crowd control who insist upon an immediate change of the political regime.

According to our analysis, the color revolution model consists of eight basic phases[1]:

1. Each 'Color revolution' begins with a total and massive media preparation lasting about a month, up to a year.

2. The gathering of an organized protest movement is the basic driving force of the 'Color revolution' to come.

3. Each demonstration of this movement, mostly in one or two of the biggest cities in the country, is accompanied by an incident that shocks society and leads to a public response. In Tunisia for instance in 2010 – the state with an authoritative regime – the demonstrations begin after a young trader burnt himself. The aim is to attract the public attention.

4. After such an incident, the protest network goes out in the streets of big cities, where groups of activists become the catalysts of violent massive processes, successfully involving a large circle of people.

5. The next phase is to create a political "crowd" and therefore an area large enough is chosen (e.g. a well-known square) where an enormous mass of people can gather. In conditions of the gathered "crowd" in the designated place, new 'democratic values' are drummed into people's heads thus affecting each individual's mind (these are mostly values shared by separate countries – giants in geopolitics).

6. On behalf of the whole crowd, ultimate demands are placed towards the governing elite.

7. Actual "acquisition" of power resources takes place.

8. A directed internal and international media defense of what has been achieved is under way.

In its essence, the 'color revolution' is a technology for the application of 'soft power' for the implementation of externally controlled interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign country by artificially designing political instability through exerting pressure on those in power in the

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[1] Based on: Манойло, А., Карпович, О., „ Цветные революции – теория и практика демонтажа современных политических режимов", Юнити, 2015г.

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542

form of political actions of specially prepared groups of people – mostly young people[2]. The analysis of the practical steps of the past color revolutions from the preparation stage to the final outcome shows that the same principle in the organizational and the technological model is applied.

What makes color revolutions different from traditional revolutions is that the former are rather network processes. They emerge and develop in channels of the Mass Media. Thus, an easy and deliberate way is found to influence the individual and society. In a sense, this type of revolutions can be seen as some form of information and psychological warfare. For the nature of such a war resides in the hidden and secretive control of the political, military, economic, social and many other processes. At the heart of the success here lies the good preparation, which includes disinformation and propaganda. Targets become not just the mind and will of the local population, but also the international public opinion. Due to this fact, the perpetrators ensure strong media support with the help of local and international Mass Media. It is namely in western media that 'Color revolutions' have become a common name for the fight of society against their authoritarian rulers.

The unfinished painting of the global political "artists"

At the heart of the color revolutions scenario lies the Anglo-Saxon idea, in particular, the North American ideology of "promoting" and outsourcing of democracy, democratic ideals and values to certain countries. This theory is confirmed by one of the statements of the USA President Bush, who used to say that "The survival of liberty in our land increasingly depends on the success of liberty in other lands"!? As mentioned before, 'Color revolutions' are often referred to as a tool of 'soft power', a term coined by Joseph Nye.[3] Its nature lies in attracting and persuading by using certain cultural values and examples. According to Nye, Soft power rests on the ability to shape the preferences of others with intangible assets such as culture,

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[2] Карпович, О. Манойло А. Цветные режолюции: Теория и практика демонтажа совремнных политических режимов, М., 2015, с. 60 - 70

[3] Nye J. Soft Power: The Means to Success in World Politics, Chapter 4 - Wielding Soft Power, URL: http://belfercenter.hks.harvard.edu/files/joe_nye_wielding_soft_power.pdf

political values and institutions, and policies that are seen as legitimate. The point is to affect people's behavior making them do something they wouldn't have done so far. Soft power aims to win over societies and governments in other countries to be siding with those who assert it. Soft power is not only exerted by countries but by all participants in international politics. It is hard, however, to define 'color revolutions' as a direct tool of soft power, since it is carried out through peaceful initiatives for outsourcing values. In the case of Syria, however, the contrary is observed.

The actions of the United States and its partners in the conflict was characterized more by enforcement of democracy, not soft power, without taking into account and eliminating the root causes for the political, social, ethnic and religious conflicts, which led to escalation and more tension, killing more than 200 thousand people and "uncontrolled" refugee wave from the country of about 2 million Syrians to Europe. After the direct intervention of Russia on the side of President Assad, and the destructive role of Turkey, the situation in Syria has become almost uncontrollable

Color revolutions can be seen as a means of creating a new world order – by changing the values in a region and affecting each individual, consciously being driven to wish for and achieve a drastic change in the social and political situation in their country. But the chaos that accompanies a number of revolutions, mostly those in North Africa and the deepening of the crisis in Ukraine is one of the most serious global problems of this decade. The construction of the driving forces of these so-called revolutions in some countries and regions in purely fascist formations and anti-civilization fundamental Islamic hordes give the impression of something that always gets out of the control of its creators and more often than not turns against them. This 'controllable' chaos spreading in vast territories leads to the destruction of the historically formed in those regions systems and mechanisms for collective security and the existing balance of forces. The minds of the citizens and society are "broken into" without considering their identity and the real differences and features. The stable social and political structure in these countries is disrupted building insecurity not just in these regions but in the whole world order as well.

Failure to take into account the differences in social structures leads to different results and implications for the region. The Tunisian example of the change of power seems to have

proved relatively successful (compared with other countries in the region) as the local authorities managed to prevent civil war in the country. With the help of a national dialogue and the political forces intermediaries (called "Quartet") a way was found out of the crisis peacefully thus making a change of political power and preventing the rise and radicalization of Islamist groups. Nevertheless, the country was the target of several terrorist acts in 2015, for which responsibility was claimed by "Islamic state". But as was already mentioned the situation is not the same in Syria. The country has been in a state of a raging civil war for about five years. Moreover, the junta led by Assad and the moderate forces has to deal with another threat – the terrorist organization "Islamic State", who have illegally conquered large and strategic Syrian areas – including significant oil and gas deposits. The victims of war are hundreds of thousands and millions of people are forced to flee to other countries. Because of that another crisis is being created – the crisis of illegal immigrants to the European Union. Another chaos is on its way, one that at first seemed "manageable" but reality shows that the situation is now out of hand. Thus, the European continent loses its historically built foundations and values. Despite the external intervention of the anti-terrorist coalition, the situation in Syria has seen no improvement. One of the reasons, according to a number of experts, is that there is no dialogue with the Syrian authorities represented by Assad. The US and Europe's mission to disseminate democracy and democratic values at all cost and in regions where democratic roots have never thrived, has turned out almost unfeasible. On the contrary – there has been a deepening of the emerging political and military crises.

Conclusion

In conditions of globalization, the world is not predictable and stable, rather the contrary. It is characterized by chaos and expansion of interstate and intrastate conflicts. One of the catalysts of this chaos are the so-called "Color revolutions" occurring in different countries all over the world. Whether in the post-Soviet territories or in the countries of North Africa, they radically change the picture of international relations. Ultimately, this is nothing new. Early on, quite justified, Niccolo Machiavelli [12] argues that armed conflicts and wars in particular, do not represent a drastic departure from normal human behavior. Based on historical statistics, he proves that periods of peaceful development of humankind are much shorter than the periods of war, regardless of where it is waged: in the field, on the market or in its modern version – in

front of computers. The idea of a global dissemination of liberal democratic values, supported by new information and communication technologies contributes to a purposeful, active and secret influence on the consciousness, thoughts and actions of nations in the regions with "color revolutions". Quickly and easily, the historical and cultural memory change adopting new values and norms of behavior. And as a result …the world is changing ...!

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546

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