Neutrality and its Relevance for the European Security in XXI Century

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Abstract — This work ponders upon relevance of the neutrality for the European security in XXI century. It covers basic rights and duties provided by this status, and it examines some instances of its application in history. Political, economic and strategic transformations are studied as main factors that impact on neutrality.

Key words — neutrality, European security, security transformation, NATO, international system, threats.

I. Introduction

Neutrality is a long lasting concept for the European political life that has been tested over the last two centuries and now is being questioned as a XXI century unfolds. The actuality of this research is stipulated by the fact that neutral states face the dilemma of relevance of such policy in terms of providing and ensuring security in a current political reality. In addition, some states that were supposed to ensure neutrality has caused a failure to respect this status by the state that has initially embraced neutrality is credible only in case of it being backed up by respective force that would be able to enforce it or other potential gain. Eventually, we have to conclude that the status of neutrality took place. States that could not ensure a protection and a violation from conflicting parties. During the World War II Germany has occupied B elgium, Luxemburg, Holland, Norway and Denmark regarding their neutral status. However, Switzerland was treated with due respect to its status by conflicting parties, especially if they happen to be superior in power.

Among the factors that contributed to this was the general mobilization of army, consisting of 450 thousands men, to withstand possible threat from Germany, that made the price of invasion too high of a cost vis-a-vis potential gain. In addition, it is believed that strong banking sector of Switzerland played a role in such turn of events as stability and neutrality was always violated by its status b y conflicting parties. As a result, we can constitute that the neutrality is a successful way to protect their status from violation.

During the World War II other instances of violation of the neutral status took place. States that could not ensure a protection and a violation from conflicting parties. Denmark regardless of their neutral status. However, article 5 of the Hague Conventions of 1907.

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polar model with sole pole being western democratic state that shares liberal-democratic values and respect for human rights. This development invites to non-linkage to other states and eventually becomes a part of the European security space. Certainly, states are free to choose their own standard if they wish, in order to ensure interoperability and cooperation, they have to become part of the European security space. This development, however, also contributed to the dilemma of neutrality in the XXI century. NATO has also contributed to the dilemma of neutrality in the XXI century. NATO has also contributed to the dilemma of neutrality in the XXI century.

Cooperation is deemed to be an efficient way to ensure security. In ad dition, cooperation is a more resource-conscious approach to conflict resolution. Conflicting parties perceive neutral states unbiased, thus providing space for such states to play a mediating role.

Another important role for the neutrality was to provide a space for such states. Switzerland, for example, has not exhausted itself completely. It does play an important role in conflict resolution. Conflicting parties perceive neutral states unbiased, thus providing space for such states to play a mediating role.

Eventually it is deemed that the status of neutrality as effective norm of international relation is in decline due to the global transformations that took place. Thus, broader cooperation is deemed to be an efficient way to ensure security. In ad dition, cooperation is a more resource-conscious approach to conflict resolution. For example, all former “failed” neutral states of Europe now are members of NATO. The most conservative in its neutrality has joined the UN in 2002 despite the fact that its Charter indirectly limits its neutrality. Switzerland has dropped its neutrality claim and replaced it with the notion of flexibility that neutral states display. Switzerland, the most conservative in its neutrality has joined the UN in 2002 despite the fact that its Charter indirectly limits its neutrality.

References


