

## CRISES

### **Marian Golka, The Ambivalence of Crises and Threats**

The first part of the article presents a general theoretical reflection on the conceptions of crises and threats. A thesis is proposed that differentiation of crises, threats and catastrophes is by no means obvious, and this pertains also to their causes and effects. The second part of the paper lists a few dozen events from the history of European civilization which testify to an almost continual existence or at least recurrence of various crises, conflicts and problems. Moreover, the recurring observations of intellectuals with a critical, at times even catastrophic outlook on European (or in broader terms – western) history are mentioned. The last part of the paper is an attempt to answer the question of the nature and causes of the present crisis of civilization and its potential further implications. The author also reflects on whether we are facing a crisis (or perhaps a threat) of our civilization only, or whether it is a threat that pertains to the entire contemporary civilization on a global scale.

### **Janusz T. Hryniewicz, The Neurotic Personality of the New Times. Analysis of Personality in Postindustrial Transformation**

In the age of industrial capitalism modal personality was oriented towards fulfilling one's obligations. The new economy, to a greater degree than industrial economy, appeals to the need for self-fulfillment. The decline of industrial society does not entail an increase of serious psychological threats or a rising number of suicides. The change of personality connected with the new economy tends towards individualization and growing significance of creativity and autonomy. The neurotic personality of the new times is an effect of conflicts between the will to attainment, possibilities and responsibility as well as between the pressure of creativity and psychological stability.

### **Anna Wolff-Powęska, The Ideals of Scholarship. Visions of the University and the Crisis of the 21st Century**

The text contains reflection on the causes of crisis in scholarship and the system of instruction. Conceptions and visions of the university across history are reviewed. Their recollection serves the purpose of confronting the present circumstances at a time of transformation and globalization with the ideals of past times. It does not suggest any ready prescriptions how to overcome the crisis. Rather, it is a pretext to pose new questions and seek answers to the fundamental doubts of the 21st century.

**Ewa Szymanik, Contemporary Economic Crisis**

The article discusses the factors that led to the economic slump of 2007 and describes the course of the present crisis. The study is an attempt to consolidate the results of research done by various scholars and to indicate the most significant – in the author's opinion – influences on world economy in the future. The author underscores the role of subprime loans as a direct impulse that caused the slump, presents the stages of the spreading of economic slowdown onto the economies of different continents and characterizes its implications for individual countries with particular focus on Europe, the EU states and eurozone included. In the last part she describes the situation of Poland and strives to explain why our country was only faintly affected by the crisis. Conclusions are also drawn for the future with a view to making the subsequent slumps much less acute for the economies.

**Urszula Panicz, The Financial Crisis of 2007 and the Great Depression of 1929. Similarities and Differences**

The object of the article is analysis of the similarities and differences between the Great Depression of 1929 and the financial crisis of 2007. In the first part of the study the author presents the reasons, evolution and consequences of both crises. In the second part she discusses the similarities and differences between the two crises in order to show their evolution scheme. For this purpose the author uses Minsky's theory of financial crises. The analysis shows that the causes of both crises are the same. In this context the main issue is incorrect monetary policy and excessive deregulation.

**Ilona Romiszewska, Member States of the European Union toward the Crisis of the Financial Market**

The issue considered is the identification and assessment of measures undertaken in the years 2008-2013 by the member states of the EU as well as the EU as such towards limiting the effects of the bank crisis. The measures implemented in the first phase of the crisis were meant to counteract the breakdown of the financial market (nationalization or capitalization of banks, takeover of low quality assets, guaranties) and became one of the causes of the states' deepening debt. In subsequent years, i.e. from 2010 onward the measures were increasingly focused on counteracting the possibility of yet another crisis and solutions were adopted at the EU level (the European Mechanism of Financial Stability, the European Stability Instrument, the European Financial Stability Facility, bank union) as well as at a global level (Basel III). The purpose of the adopted measures was to bring stability to the financial market and real economy whereas the constructed new infrastructure of the financial market is to make credit institutions more resistant to crises.

### **Marta Götz, Post-crisis Economic Sciences**

(Post)crisis economy becomes less orthodox and hermetic. It starts opening itself to external intellectual trends and views its own judgments with less confidence, additionally subjecting them to a growing number of reservations. This paper offers a selection of crisis related reflections.

### **Miron Lakomy, The North Atlantic Treaty toward Threats to ICT Security**

Dynamic development of the Internet since the end of the 20th century, despite its indisputable advantages, opened new challenges to the security of states. The first major cyber-incidents took place in the 1980s and 1990s. Later on they evolved into organized, harmful activities both of states and non-state actors. A breakthrough in this respect took place in 2007, when Estonia became the first country to be massively attacked by politically motivated hackers. It proved that the North Atlantic Treaty Organization was not prepared to fight these unconventional threats. Over the next six years, NATO elaborated a new cyber security policy based on the awareness that ICT technologies are increasingly important for the international environment. This process was accompanied by the development of new structures and institutions, which were tasked to fight cyber attacks. On the one hand, in this context, it is important to underscore that NATO has employed the proper way of countering these challenges. On the other hand, however, it did not address multiple, still valid dilemmas concerning, among others, the interpretation of article 5 of the Washington Treaty. Finding a way to solve these problems will determine the security of the Euro-Atlantic community in the future.

### **Joanna Dobrowolska-Polak, Humanitarian Aid to Victims of Armed Conflicts**

Article is about the politicisation of humanitarian aid to victims of armed conflicts. The author analyses humanitarian policies of ten largest humanitarian state donors and the European Union and assesses the degree of their politicisation. Author also discusses the process of consolidation of the activities undertaken by humanitarian organisations and presents the cluster approach.

Along with the global escalation and proliferation of armed conflict and the ensuing growing threats to national and international security governments have begun to look for the new methods of influence on unstable regions and use them to establishing peace and security. One of them became the distribution of humanitarian aid. A six-fold augmentation of the amount of subsidies (1999-2012) increased the possibilities of taking action in the areas of conflict, but also transformed the humanitarian sphere into the aid business. It supported the creation of new organisations, which - for the appropriate remuneration – have realised humanitarian programs in line with the political guidelines of governments, not necessarily forming a response to the needs of victims.

Assessing the politicisation of humanitarian aid transferred by the state and the EU the group of the largest donors can be divided into three subgroups. To the first belong states, which subordinating the humanitarian ideas to the political guidelines: USA (the largest global donor), Saudi Arabia and Canada. The second group consists of the

European Commission, Japan, Netherlands and Germany, which have implemented humanitarian principles into their policies, but have not reduced their right to decide about the allocation and method of delivery of their assistance. In the third group - remains in apparent opposition to the first group – there are Sweden, Norway, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. Humanitarian programs of those states are conducted strictly as a response to the real and most important humanitarian needs of victims of crisis

#### **Jadwiga Kiwerska, The Crisis in American-Israeli Relations. A Balance of Barack Obama's First Term as President**

The United States traditionally played a crucial role in the Near East, mainly as a catalyst of progress in the peace process. Therefore the Israeli-Palestinian conflict was one of the most pressing problems faced by the administration of Barack Obama. Initially it seemed that the President of the USA, who announced "his own way" of solving the conflict, would prove to be more efficient and reliable than e.g. his predecessor in the White House. The starting point was to be an improvement of the USA's relations with the Muslim world, among others due to America's stronger support of Palestinian postulates. However, Obama's tactic turned out to be ineffective; instead of restoring America's position and improving its image in the Near East, it resulted in a loss of confidence in Obama by both parties to the conflict. The most conspicuous effect of his endeavors was a crisis in American-Israeli relations and lack of progress in the Near East peace process.

#### **Marek Kaźmierczak, The Faces of Crisis. Remarks on the Problems of Contemporary Man Based on the Comments of the Facebook Service Users**

The article deals with different images of social and cultural effects of the financial crisis which are created and propagated by users of the Facebook service. The text consists of two complementary parts. The first part, titled The Faces of Crisis, discusses numerous forms of presenting on Facebook pages the socio-cultural problems that result from the financial crisis. The second part (made up of two sections titled Facebook as a Medium of Colloquial Thinking and "National Bank of the Former Republic of Greece", respectively) characterizes this social networking service as a medium of colloquial knowledge which is an important element of describing and cognizing reality.

The main hypothesis of the reflections developed in the article is based on the belief that Facebook, a medium that serves to express a variety of emotions and feelings, thereby facilitating the articulation of numerous attitudes possible in the public life, is becoming a filter of the civic society.