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## The Role of National Identity in Integration Processes

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**Abstract.** At the time of close cooperation between the V4 countries, new ideas for cooperation not only in political, economic and cultural areas, but also in the areas aimed at maintenance and improvement the situation in some counties of Central Europe are emerging. Thus, when the conflict and coexistence situations are mentioned, they can be regarded as an institutional mechanism, an example and a possible inspiration both to Central Europe and Eastern block countries. In the article the Author tries to ruin the ideas of formation the separate nations (not in current relations only), prospects for further cooperation and maintenance of cultural and political diversity in Europe.

**Keywords:** nation; identity; integration.

In the late 18th century against the background of the French Revolution and the Napoleonic wars, the ever more urgently the question of unification emerged inhabitants of each country on a higher, integrational principles. The broad masses are cemented on the basis of a common nation, based on the identification of broad segments of society-the common national interests. The concept of a nation and its interests served as ideological justification for the extension of the struggle for living space, but also the struggle for self-determination, nation, human and social rights. In the 19th and 20 century. The performance of each State in the stage of world politics justify the fight to protect national interests. The term nation is often reduced to the dubious justification of the superiority of one nation over another. Conflicts and military performances in 20 century, dug too deep divisions between nations. Therefore, the role of 21st century that these divisions the new policy of cooperation have been gradually removed. Not conflict, but cooperation offers opportunities for development and democratic nations in a common direction – an integrated Europe.

One problem is the question of the future status of people in Europe and its future role in each of the integrated structures. The issue of the nation, its role and importance of practical politics and the politics will undoubtedly continue to play an irreplaceable role. For a long time will be one of the main themes expressed politicians, whether in the election campaign or any time when the possibility of this issue through the same tilt of the electorate. The concept of the nation remains, but the content certainly will change its meaning into a new dimension. Integration processes are still taking place in Europe are encouraged to ponder what was, is and will be a nation in Europe and what the relationship of nation and state in the future [1].

The nation as a theorist of international relations, says Oskar Krejci historically speaking was "the formation of community around common ethnic characteristics, such as the common and different from other ethnic origin, mental, language, asserting the

relative material and spiritual culture" [2]. The primary concern of every nation has always been and will maintain its existence, its distinctive features and effort as possible to avoid the political, cultural or other pressure from the other nation. From the perspective of the nation state should therefore be seen as the most important means of defending its interests.

We therefore conclude that although nationalism was in the 19th and 20 century, the driving force of history leading to the collapse of colonialism, the idea of removing the present imperialist message is no longer current. The concept of nationalism as a nation and looking for your new application. During the Cold War the world was arranged as bipolar, formed around the two superpowers. The topic of the nation state and national understanding of both camps, have each a little different. Western countries or the European Community. NATO terminology used by declaring support for self-determination rights of the Eastern Bloc countries and their emancipation from the influence of the USSR. Contrast, the Soviet Union promoted nationalism postcolonial countries in Asia and Africa, especially when he needed to be ideologically justify its policy as a struggle against Western imperialism. His rhetoric is located thanks to the considerable response. World politics after 1945 was, according to E. Hobsbawn essentially revolution and counterrevolution policy [3]. In this situation interfere with national issues only in the sense that stress or disturbance to the main motives for the superpowers. Paradoxically, as claimed by B. Ferencihovč, after the fall of communism in Europe, "the triumph of the national principle in Europe and the emergence of new states was seen as the symptom of an appeal shall not enrichment" [4]. We have been witnessing is the disintegration of Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, and finally the creation of new states on the ruins of the USSR. The word nation has become a central theme of separatist efforts, particularly in former Yugoslavia or Columbia etc. which escalated to a crisis and led to the prolonged conflict [5]. European structures, however, not entirely successfully suppressed nationalist passions and now the problem of nationalism Balkan nations still at the stage of latent danger for the whole continent. Therefore new formed Europe faces a number of issues related to national and ethnic questions, which are spared of a Slovak as the country which strives to become one of the architects of the new Europe.

Cooperation of V4 countries can serve as a model solution neighborhood and ethnic issues. Even here, however we can not avoid criticism. Perhaps that democratic regimes in the candidate countries are still to heal from childhood diseases, causes that here from time to time the fact that climate is not conducive to cooperation. I mean the action of political parties operating on passwords, nationalism, and controversial application of expatriate laws. That V4 and intensive contacts but also find a basis for the gradual elimination of the growing antagonism and excessive nationalism.

### ***The situation in Slovakia***

The identity of the Slovak nation as a modern political nation began to create in the first half of the 19th century. Political Programme of the Slovak nation was first conceived in Santa Claus applications in 1848. Enforce its ethnic, linguistic and cultural concept, although in addition it existed at that time the concept of civil, in particular the establishment of Upper Hungary citizens who are of Slovak nationality in political life. Establishment of the Czechoslovak Republic in 1918 marked the first clear territorial demarcation of Slovakia, the emergence of political institutions, anchoring Republican, liberal-democratic multiparty political system and define the Slovak language as the official language along with the Czech. From a national perspective Czechoslovak Republic was founded on an imaginary vision of a single Czechoslovak nation. Establishment of an independent Slovak state in 1939 meant the enforcement of nationalist and totalitarian concept of the nation, which in the civilized world can not and should not be accepted. After World War II re-enforce the concept of the Czechoslovak unitarism. But it has turned

into more or less formal federal arrangement after the year 1968. The actual federal and democratic constitution of Czechoslovakia divided sovereignty of the Slovak and the Czech Republic came into existence after the constitutional change in 1989. This concept is not maintained, and in 1993 was, as an act of political emergence of the political class from winning elections in 1992, the independent Slovak Republic.

Modern Slovak nation develops at the interface civilization of Western and Eastern civilizations with a long-term historical inclination to Western civilization in the peripheral, often marginal form. There was more or less in a hybrid form of the historical range of the western belonging to the same elements of Eastern and after 1945 it is for the eastern circuit, with a permanently present historical cultural memory belonging to Western civilization. From the perspective of the so-called Slovakia. "Velvet revolution" have applied two approaches to forming a national state. It was the first modernization, i.e. transformation, which aims to move towards a modern, democratic structures. It is characterized in an attempt to define the position of the Slovak nation in relation to surrounding states / externally /, and in relation to other national minorities / inwards /. The second approach is a conservative approach, traditionalist, which is to achieve a return to ourselves, to his "golden time" (as opposed to the time of "darkness" of communism). The term "nation" seems ideologically to be covered fear and uncertainty about the future and the impulse to action – restoring its own sovereignty. This was later found its application in the process of creating a full, independent and sovereign state.

In the period after the fall of the communist regime there was a break in the continuity of established structures, institutions and elites, and so much more importance to the people entered the symbolic and mythic plane. Years practiced social consciousness through political transformation step in the economic sphere but also went through many turbulences. Sphere of defense and the nation has become a mainstay, the threshold legitimizing new political authorities and also an area in which the present day political struggle takes place. Myths and traditions of the nation's memory, however, serve as a unique element of continuity. In this sense we can speak with Slovak in this context, the following main elements: the myth of natural democratize, Slavic solidarity, spiritual mission for Europe, the Dark Ages, national oppression and other .

It is now possible to observe trends in Slovakia to modernize relations between Slovaks and ethnic minorities also in bilateral relations with neighboring states. He received a number of legislative measures to ensure the rights of national minorities, while at higher levels given the relations between both neighboring countries signed intergovernmental agreements on mutual relations and also an intensive dialogue and cooperation at the diplomatic level.

### ***Cooperation of nations in Central Europe***

Establishment of an independent Slovak state, many cursed, yet children are still growing pains, but standing fully emancipated from whole variety of problems in the context of international cooperation.

You will need to deal with the pressures of transnational forces, however, for further development in Slovakia historical necessity. Important, however, will find in the context of international relations and the forces between the national and pan-European and global between unique. Therefore, in the Central Europe is even true that they face two different perception of further development. On the one hand there is the legitimate aspirations of preserving and promoting the value system of their own culture and historical identity of the nation, which is associated with a desire to contribute to these values through to the enrichment of common but pluralistic identity. On the other hand, there according to Koloman Ivanička conclusion, interest exists reduce state limits for unrestricted commercial activity of certain multinational companies and create a barrier-

free space where these companies can economically and political control of markets, nation-states today [6].

The notion of a nation can not therefore be seen already in position 19 or the early 20th century modernism, but in the spirit of the third millennium. Word of the nation, and this also applies to Slovakia, that is absolutely not a unit that can exist alone, so to speak for themselves.

The situation in the V4 countries is much similar. The V4 countries have undergone similar historical developments such as Slovakia. Their problems are identical in many ways and yet different. The Czech Republic more than any other country must match from the load displacement issues Sudeten Germans, on the other hand, it is the growing consciousness of belonging to the Czech nation. Is strongly rooted tradition of democracy building awareness of the historical practice of I. Czechoslovakia and still remain above standard links the coexistence of seventy. Example of Slovakia's relations and the CR could serve as a model of relations between other countries and the V4. In the period after the split of Czechoslovakia Republic as if the Czech Republic is considered more as part of the West, thanks to the fact that it was east of the buffer states - Slovakia, which is considered a bridge between East and West. The proof of the same inclination of the Czech Republic to the West are very close relations with Germany and Austria. A higher level of cooperation is becoming even with Poland and Hungary, and must believe that the intensity of the intercommunication between the nations will reach a higher level. Poland, however, now strongly focused their attention on all four sides, Germany, the southern neighbors, Ukraine and Russia as well as Scandinavia and the Baltic Republics. However, it will need to overcome a kind of reciprocal cold and sometimes quite incomprehensible alienation in Slovakia–Polish relations. Lack is any antagonism of the past. On the other hand, appear most problematic relations with Hungary, where "ethnic card" is still a very important role. However, we can realistically hope for the re-launched through dialogue within the V4 in the early resolution of this issue. It is not bad when problems arise, it is a question of development, not only of political but it is bad, although problems remain unsolved and feelings of superiority or injustices in international relations are then reflected in the cooperation in other areas. Cooperation with Hungary is very important in terms of a very good reputation abroad, Budapest, and is only a pity that a substantial part of the political spectrum in Hungary sees the same concept of Central Europe the possibility of reviving its domination in the Danube basin.

New dimensions of relations, globalization, and intense build new political structures are the only logical consequence of overcoming national egoism. Events of the past and in particular conflicts of the 20th century showed that the path of confrontation, nationalism and chauvinism, never failed to produce positive results for any nation. Conflict is therefore not solving problems, but the way of dialogue.

Communication in ethnically mixed areas may be an example for the political elite. In the countryside does not matter who is what ethnicity, but he is what the nature of their behavior. The same can be transferred to land diplomatic and international communication. Intensive negotiations and dialogue is the only way to creative international cooperation and peaceful coexistence. It connects us is a common goal, united Europe in which the diversity of its national asset and source of further development. And central Europe, although the words of philosopher Bauer "is a vast area full of unanswered questions and unresolved disputes, the area attempting to raise the requirements to be met just as requests made by the other party. It seems visionary vagaries, which aims at something else entirely, something new and great" [7] and the new united Europe, not only more Western, Central, and Eastern.

### **Conclusion**

New challenges on the threshold of the third millennium, Slovakia and other countries before entering into a new paradigm. Is a party to the ongoing discussions on the

changing geopolitics, political theory, the onset of phase transition to a knowledge-based society. Co-operation and seeking answers to the questions of who we are and we walk, it is not possible without an intensive exchange of knowledge and experience in today's globalizing world. Survive and apply to one who will aggressively implement unilateral interests but rather in a spirit of cooperation and assist the development of spiritual and political development of the mosaic of the peoples of Europe. Visegrad cooperation is developing a bridge of cooperation towards greater geopolitical entity – the European Union, made up of Europeans, but also the peoples of Europe.

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### Роль национального самосознания в интеграционных процессах

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**Аннотация.** В период все более тесного сотрудничества между странами V4 – взаимного или в сторону европейских структур – все чаще приходят к жизни идеи взаимодействия не только в политической, экономической и культурных сферах, но и в целях поддержания и улучшения положения отдельных стран в геополитическом пространстве Центральной Европы. Однако, при вопросе о конфликтах, как результата сосуществования разнообразных сочетаний народов и наций, они могут быть институциональным механизмом в Центральной Европе, примером, и даже возможным вдохновением как в Европейском Союзе, так и стран Восточного блока. В статье автор пытается развенчать создание наций (не только в текущих отношениях), перспективу продолжения сотрудничества и поддержание культурного и политического многообразия в Европе.

**Ключевые слова:** нация; идентичность; интеграция.