Abstract

Changing environment of international relations, changing conflicts character, and new threats and risks influence North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and its role in international system. Clear structure of international system ended with end of bipolar division of Cold War. Unclear political equilibrium brought the question of future of NATO. Political concept that was used during Cold war was not sufficient and the Alliance stated again in front of transformation needs. Also during the Cold War the role of national security had been changing.

Subject of this research is character of transformation of NATO and its adherence to theoretical premises of neoliberal institutionalism. International institutions are often subject of research in international relations. This thesis reacts on the deficiency of interest about changes and survival of institutions in literature. The thesis works with the theory of Robert O. Keohane that is rooted in the end of the Cold War but has been modified by further author’s works. After basic analysis three variables were identified. These are three transformation areas – institutional development, and mission conduct. On the base of theoretical approach analysis three independent variables were added. These were – level of institutionalization, character of partnership/membership (inclusive or exclusive), and orientation on threat or risks. Based on deduction from the relation between these all variables the hypothesis was chosen from given theoretical framework. That is:

„NATO is transforming from defense organization to organization of conflict management“.

This hypothesis is tested in three chosen areas of transformation. According to the positive results and proof of the hypothesis two case studies were analyzed according to double test aim. As case studies Kosovo and Afghanistan were chosen. These mission were indicated because of their time separation what will give the possibility of generalization and better analysis of whole transformation period. Double testing under which the hypothesis is W. Wallace called as cyclical research. That is the main methodology strategy for this work.

This research has few partial aims. First of all it is the analyses and findings of suitable hypotheses in frame of neoliberal institutionalism. To this aim first two
chapters are devoted. Security organization are developing as anything else in the World. Kinds of security institutions identified in Keohanes theory are used here such as research framework and are described in the first chapter. Based on the comparison with historical overview are at the end of second chapter identified the mentioned hypotheses. Following chapter are devoted to each research area.

In each sector theoretical premises are implemented and so are practically tested. In institutional chapter attendance is given to main basic institutions of NATO (North Atlantic Council, Military Committee, Euro Atlantic Partnership Council) and to institutional management of missions. In area of partnership and enlargement main attendance is focused on accepting of new tasks and obligations and their influence on this area. Partnership progammes are also introduced in this chapter. Conclusions in this chapter are made also based on the critics of open door policy of NATO. Last area of interest is missions‘ transformation. New missions are result of external influence but at the same time they are initiator of internal changes in the Alliance. Chapter of mission is devoted to institutional management of missions, their partners, and to the concept of out-of-area that were at the beginning of possibility of further mission development.

Since the beginning of this research we have two aims – finding the hypothesis and its double testing. In accordance to the approval of the hypotheses in the first part it was taken for another testing by mission comparison. Two mission stated on the opposite side of chosen transformation period (from the end of the Cold War to present). This comparison showed development with approval of our hypotheses. But this research also showed some long-term problematic aspects of transformation such as work with information and rules of decision within the Alliance. These problematic aspect did not changed during whole period.

Long-term inability to reach the consensus in these point are probably reflection of lack of advance of transformation process of needs of present security environment. Partially it could be also from the unwillingness to accept and present this development officially. Despite the discussion and many researches, accept this one, show how the development is, official document of the Alliance do not allow this terms. However, conclusions of this research are clear: NATO is passing from defense alliance to organization of security management.
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