



Martin Ehl

Třetí dekáda

O životě, politice a lidech mezi Bruselem a Gazpromem

Between Brussels and Gazprom

Internationalisation of security threats



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- ▶ **The Third Decade idea: for the first time in modern history CEE countries live in secured, peaceful and stable environment without any imminent existential threat for more than two decades**
 - **NATO has shaky future, but has deterrent effect**
 - **terrorist threat: not probable**
 - **borders are secured and stable**
 - **economy and basic legal framework secured due to EU membership**
- ▶ **It is upon us how we shape our future, we cannot blame outsiders. OR COULD WE?**



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- ▶ **Our homework: in a search of next BIG IDEA**
 - anticorruption measures
 - independence of justice system
 - state financies (reforms of health care and other systems dependent on public finances)
 - lack of political leadership
 - Roma issue as ticking bomb

- ▶ **Where to look around for external influence?**



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- ▶ **Brussels: legal framework, bureaucratic threat, but we are part of the game and having voice**
- ▶ **Gazprom as metaphore for socialist or Russian or autocratic or nondemocratic mindset**
 - **mindset of socialist thinking ▶ low level of historical education + low level of civic (democratic) involvement = better to be dependent on state (Krastev: the end of liberal consensus)**
 - **reality: energy dependence ▶ used as political tool**
- ▶ **Where is the practical example? Is it just Rusophobia as presented in Brussels?**



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- ▶ **Energy security as prime example how twenty years after the change old mindset and structures prevail:**
 - **Nord Stream issue: Germany and Russia over our heads**
 - **East – West pipes vs. North – South pipes**
 - **Russian companies in EU business: not playing according to market rules**
 - **Shale gas in Poland as gamechanger?**
- ▶ **Where is the US? Do we need them and do they need us?**



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► **The United States and Central Europe**

- **inspiration of freedom (individual, political)**
- **close relations during 1990s**
- **NATO Treaty art. V.: guarantee of independence**
- **attempt with missile defense**
- **New Europe vs. Obama's night calls**
- **Polish shale gas as new bridge to Washington**

► **But Brussels is closer, isn't it?**



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► **The European union and Central Europe**

- security guarantee in Baltic countries
 - source of money
 - source of law and good habits
 - basic legal framework
 - socialist experience: different approach to relation state
– citizen (habit to be to dependent vs. liberal conservative approaches)
- **What our guests think about it? Are we more dangerous to ourselves than Gazprom or Brussels?**